



ENVIRONMENTAL
ADVOCATES OF NEW YORK

SUPPORTS



Key to Legislative Ratings:



Major Benefit



Substantial Benefit



Beneficial

A.4245 (BRODSKY, ET AL.) S.5778 (THOMPSON)

Summary

This bill requires that when preparing an Environmental Impact Statement under New York's State Environmental Quality Review Act, lead agencies must include a discussion of whether the proposed action will place a disproportionate or inequitable burden on the community where the facility is proposed.

Explanation

This bill seeks to address an inequitable pattern of siting hazardous polluting facilities in low-income and/or minority neighborhoods. Years of experience have shown a proclivity on the part of certain industries and municipalities to site noxious or dangerous facilities in communities lacking in political power or wealth. The results of this practice are that minority and low-income populations have been subject to the most serious environmental health risks. In communities across New York State, incinerators, hazardous and solid waste dumps, sewage treatment plants, and general industrial development are believed to have resulted in increased rates of asthma and other respiratory problems, cancer, birth defects, and other environmentally triggered maladies.

All New Yorkers, and not just a few, should equally accept the burdens created by environmentally degrading facilities like these. Faced with the prospect of a hazardous waste dump or other polluting facilities in their communities, more politically influential New Yorkers will find ways to reduce the need for such facilities and the resulting pollution.

Environmental Advocates of New York supports this bill.

Memo 9