



A.7038-A (SWEENEY, ET AL.)

Summary

This bill, known as the New York State Healthy and Green Procurement Act, would amend the State Finance Law, Economic Development Law, and Environmental Conservation Law to establish protocols for the purchase of services, commodities, and technologies by state agencies in order to minimize adverse impacts on the environment and public health.

Explanation

This wide-ranging bill establishes minimum specifications for healthy and green procurement by state agencies. These specifications address the purchase of recycled materials, waste reduction, energy efficiency and green building practices. The bill also increases membership of the State Procurement Council to include the Commissioner of the Department of Environmental Conservation and organizations whose function is to protect public health or the environment. The bill also establishes the healthy and green procurement council, to be made up of state agency employees, and the healthy and green procurement advisory board, consisting of individuals appointed by the Governor, Senate Majority Leader and Assembly Speaker.

The bill requires the healthy and green procurement council and advisory board to develop environmentally preferable purchasing criteria to procure products, services and/or technologies that will take into consideration: the protection of public health and the environment and the conservation of natural resources; the protection of drinking water, groundwater, surface water, and air (including indoor air); the protection of ecosystems; pollution prevention; and avoidance of priority toxic substances. A list of healthy and green supplies and/or technologies will also be created to guide state agencies' procurement activities.

New York State's agencies should serve as role models for the public, especially with regard to making decisions that will least harm public health and the environment. It is also true in many cases that environmentally sound decisions result in economic benefits. This bill is an important first step in minimizing the state's impact on the environment and providing much-needed leadership for others to follow.

Environmental Advocates of New York supports this bill.

Memo 19