



ENVIRONMENTAL
ADVOCATES OF NEW YORK

SUPPORTS



Key to Legislative Ratings:

🌲🌲🌲 Major Benefit

🌲🌲 Substantial Benefit

🌲 Beneficial

S.3593-B (KRUEGER, ET AL) A.6813-B (KAVANAGH, ET AL)

Summary

This bill would amend the Environmental Conservation Law to ban rechargeable batteries from the solid waste stream in New York State and require battery manufacturers to work with retailers to set up free and easily accessible recycling networks for state residents.

Explanation

Almost everyone uses and discards batteries into the waste stream. Everyday products, including cell phones, MP3 players, laptop computers, digital cameras, toys and cordless power tools, often contain reusable batteries. Rechargeable batteries reduce waste and energy because they have a longer life than regular non-rechargeable batteries. But such batteries also contain toxic metals such as lead, cadmium and mercury. When rechargeable batteries are not properly disposed, these toxic metals can leach out and contaminate drinking water, and even the air if burned or incinerated.

This bill requires rechargeable battery manufacturers to submit and implement a recycling plan with retailers to the Commissioner of the Department of Environmental Conservation. The legislation requires manufacturers to provide annual reports accounting for the batteries recycled and the cost of the program to the manufacturers. It also requires retailers to post a sign advertising the free recycling of rechargeable batteries. Additionally, it contains monetary penalties for those that do not comply with the law.

By making it illegal to dispose of batteries in regular solid waste, dangerous toxins would be kept out of our air, land, water and wildlife, and the health of all New Yorkers would be protected.

Environmental Advocates of New York supports this bill.

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