



## **A.7424 (ROSENTHAL, ET AL.) S.5061-A (PERKINS)**

### **Summary**

This bill would prohibit the use of diesel-powered engines to produce electricity in areas of the state that do not meet health-based air quality standards for ozone and particulates set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The prohibition would not apply to units with a capacity of less than 100 kilowatts, those that meet strict emissions standards, or emergency back-up units that only run during power failures.

### **Explanation**

As of December 2008, 30 New York State counties do not meet the EPA's air quality standards for ozone. Diesel-powered engines are a significant source of pollution in these counties. In June 2003, the Northeast States for Coordinated Air Use Management, of which New York is a member, estimated that small diesel generators in New York City annually emit 6,480 tons of nitrogen oxides (NO<sub>x</sub>), 260 tons of large particulate matter (PM<sub>10</sub>), and 580 tons of volatile organic compounds (VOCs).

These small units often operate during hot weather or due to high energy prices. Because the resulting emissions tend to be released closer to the ground and units are often located near or in heavily populated areas, they pose serious public health concerns. The nitrogen oxides emitted by these engines significantly contribute to the blanket of smog choking our cities on summer days. In addition, these engines collectively account for thousands of tons of carbon dioxide, the chief greenhouse gas responsible for global climate change.

The majority of diesel generators currently in use are more polluting than other electricity generating technologies. As this bill requires, these dirty diesels should be used only during actual power outages.

**Memo 29**

**Environmental Advocates of New York supports this bill.**