



ENVIRONMENTAL  
ADVOCATES OF NEW YORK

# SUPPORTS



Key to Legislative Ratings:

🌲🌲🌲 Major Benefit

🌲🌲 Substantial Benefit

🌲 Beneficial

## A.7573 (SWEENEY, ET AL.)

### Summary

This bill amends New York State's Environmental Conservation Law to include decabromodiphenyl ether (deca-BDE) among the brominated flame retardants whose manufacture, process or sale is prohibited. After July 1, 2012, the bill would prohibit any person from manufacturing, processing or distributing products containing commercial deca-BDE, including some electronic devices; upholstered furniture or textiles for indoor residential use; and mattresses and mattress pads. The bill also provides for certain exemptions to the ban and establishes penalties for non-compliance.

### Explanation

New York State, in Chapter 387 of the Laws of 2004, banned the manufacture, process or distribution of two types of brominated flame retardants, penta-BDE and octa-BDE, because of suggested links to permanent neurological and developmental damage. Associated health risks include learning deficits, memory and hearing impairment, behavioral abnormalities and delayed sensory-motor development. The ban, however, did not include deca-BDE, the most widely used of the three brominated flame retardants. An estimated 24,000 metric tons of deca-BDE is used annually in North America.

This flame retardant, found in virtually every home and office in the United States, is persistent in the environment, accumulates in dust and food, and has been shown to pose the same neurological and developmental health risks as those associated with the other previously banned brominated flame retardants. Adding deca-BDE to the list of banned brominated flame retardants is important for the protection of both the environment and human health.

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

**Memo 33**