



A.199-B (BRODSKY)
S.3788-B (LIBOUS)

Summary

This bill would amend New York State's Environmental Conservation and Public Health Laws requiring that the Departments of Environmental Conservation and Health conduct studies using computer mapping to examine cancer incidence in relationship to the location of certain environmental facilities.

Explanation

Efforts to reduce the incidence of cancer require that New York State make the fullest use of every tool at its disposal. The state collects extensive epidemiological information in its cancer registry but has not fully capitalized on this excellent resource. Maps released by the Department of Health to date have been less than illuminating, with overly broad mapping intervals. The maps also fail to make use of existing sources of potentially correlative data. This bill would require the Department of Environmental Conservation to provide information to the Department of Health in order to maintain detailed computerized databases on key factors that may contribute to cancer incidence in New York, including the approximate location of certain environmental facilities. Doing so will help illuminate potential relationships between incidence and risk and may open the door to reducing those risks.

Not only does the new bill better specify agency responsibilities, it also clarifies the types of environmental facilities for mapping against the cancer registry data. In addition, the bill specifies deadlines for the production of the maps required.

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Environmental Advocates of New York supports this bill.