



# EANY SUPPORTS Lead-Free Parks



**Memo #8**

[S.147-A \(Gianaris, et al.\)](#)

[A5524 \(O'Donnell\)](#)

## **Explanation:**

This legislation requires testing and remediation of lead in drinking water at New York's state and local parks. With young children at highest risk of life-long damage from this neurotoxin, New York must take steps to ensure its parks are lead-free.

There is no safe level of lead exposure. Even low levels of lead in children can cause neurological damage, impaired hearing, slowed growth, and anemia.

Recent drinking water testing in New York City parks demonstrates the urgent need to establish testing statewide. Between [May and August 2019](#), 293 water fountains in 196 city parks detected lead above 15 parts per billion (ppb) in at least one sample. Many more fountains had detectable levels of lead below 15 ppb, which will continue to pose risks to children. New York recently lowered its action level for lead in school drinking water to 5 ppb.

Under this legislation, all state and local parks must test for lead in drinking water at least once every three years and conduct remediation within 90 days wherever the lead action level, set at 5 parts per billion (ppb), is exceeded.

## **Summary:**

The bill amends Section 1110 of the Public Health Law to require testing and remediation of lead in drinking water at New York's state and local parks.