



MEMORANDUM IN SUPPORT

EXPAND RECYCLING OF RECHARGEABLE BATTERIES

S.643D – KAVANAGH

A.7339B – GLICK

Description: Amends the current rechargeable battery recycling law to expand the list of products for which battery producers must fund and recycle rechargeable batteries, including electric bikes and scooters. Allows New York City to enforce provisions of the rechargeable battery law.

Justification

Rechargeable batteries, including those made with lithium-ion, will continue to play an important role in reducing dependence on fossil fuels. However, depleted rechargeable batteries that are treated as traditional waste can deteriorate and leak, ultimately leading to corrosion that releases toxic chemicals into our environment. Additionally, these batteries pose a safety risk and have been implicated in an increasing number of fires that have caused worker injuries, fatalities, and millions of dollars in damage to trucks, recycling plants, transfer stations, and other waste management facilities.

Recycling rechargeable batteries helps conserve natural resources by reducing the need for virgin materials and reducing the energy and pollution associated with making new products. Recycling these batteries avoids air and water pollution, as well as greenhouse gas emissions.

The current rechargeable battery recycling law in New York requires battery producers to fund and recycle many types of rechargeable batteries, including those used in toys, cameras, cell phones, and hand power tools. This legislation will expand the list of products to include specific types of batteries causing fires, facility destruction, and economic loss. These products include electric bicycles, scooters, and hoverboards, also known as e-mobility devices, which are growing in popularity.

This legislation will also allow New York City to enforce provisions of the rechargeable battery law. This is particularly important due to the proliferation of e-bike and e-scooter use throughout New York City where damaging fires caused by lithium-ion batteries have repeatedly occurred.

CCE urges the legislature to pass this important legislation that will help protect our environment, fight climate change, and safeguard public health and safety.

**CITIZENS CAMPAIGN FOR THE ENVIRONMENT SUPPORTS
S.643D/A.7339B—Rechargeable Battery Recycling**

CCE is a 120,000-member non-profit, non-partisan advocacy organization that works to empower communities and advocate solutions that protect public health and the natural environment

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