



2021
LEGISLATIVE AGENDA AND BILLS



**THE LEAGUE
OF
HUMANE VOTERS®
OF NEW YORK**

POLITICAL ACTION FOR ANIMALS

The League of Humane Voters® of New York
Jeffery Termini, Legislative Director
Cell Phone: [716-380-7667](tel:716-380-7667) email: Jeffery@lohv-ny.org

THE LEAGUE OF HUMANE VOTERS



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INTRODUCTION

The Mission of the League of Humane Voters® is to create, unite, and strengthen local political action committees, which work to enact animal-friendly legislation and elect candidates for public office who will use their votes and influence for animal protection. LOHV® works for animal protection by:

- Lobbying for animal-friendly legislation;
- Campaigning for candidates who support animal protection;
- Being a strong political voice for all animals --domestic, wildlife, farm, and all animals who suffer from abuse and exploitation; and,
- Demonstrating that animal advocates are a substantial voting bloc.

THE LOHV DELIVERS THE VOTE

The LOHV® recognizes that animal protection requires laws and enforcement. Animal exploitation is a political issue and not just a moral one, and our goal is to make animal protection a mainstream political issue by building support among citizens, activists, political parties, and elected representatives.

Those who hold elective office can pass laws to protect animals. LOHV® endorses candidates and then campaigns for their election to public office. We help to get out the vote for our candidates. Once in office, we lobby officeholders to enact animal protective legislation.

LOHV® is strictly non-partisan.

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PLANT-BASED LUNCH OPTION IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

An act to amend the education law, in relation to requiring public schools to offer plant-based food options in food service.

A.00301 Assembly Member Gottfried

Co-sponsors: Epstein, Woerner, Paulin, Thiele, Reyes, De La Rosa, Jean-Pierre Taylor, Barron, Solages, Glick, Seawright, Hyndman, Fernandez, Dickens, Fall, Sayegh, Williams, Griffin, Darling, Weprin

Multi-sponsor: Galef, Lentol, Miller M

REFERRED TO EDUCATION, A/M Benedetto, Chair

S.1726 Senator Hoylman

Co-sponsors: Addabbo, Jackson, Myrie, Savino, Sepulveda

REFERRED TO EDUCATION, Senator Mayer, Chair

Helps Schools Achieve 30% of Purchases from New York State for Extra Reimbursement...



Children enjoy trip to Farmers Market in NYC



Children play with NYS Grown Dry Beans in Ithaca

NYS Grown Beans and Vegetables are used in School Lunches to Create Plant-Based Entrees

Cost Neutral or Cost Savings...Supports New York State Farms...

Delicious...Healthy...Better for Children...

Better for the Environment...Better for Animals

BACKGROUND:

- It's a proven fact that plant-based foods are a healthy alternative to conventional meals.
- **Plant-based cheese, milk, and meats are readily available. IKEA started serving plant-based Swedish meatballs and it has been so successful that they have expanded their plant-based options.**
- The Food Climate Research Network (FCRN) at the University of Oxford, concluded that a plant-based diet has advantages for health and the environment. This is in accordance with a new study by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) published on May 19, 2016.
- Medical professionals promote a PBD for patients suffering from heart disease, obesity, diabetes and certain types of cancers. In some cases, the diet has been known to reverse symptoms, as well as the disease itself.
- In 2017, The Los Angeles Unified School District voted in favor of adopting a healthful PBD option in L.A. schools. The pilot program was championed by students, parents and doctors. 1,200 public schools in the NYC school district began offering at least one PB entrée at the commencement of the 2017 semester, thanks to Brooklyn Borough President Eric Adams who is a vegan.
- New York State cares about the health and well-being of its children. Diet is a major component in the critical stages of a child's development. It is also essential for a child's concentration. Not only will students benefit from a PBD entrée option but, faculty and other staff in the school system will as well.

Our Children's Health is at Risk... Plant-Powered Options Help Them Practice What We Teach

STATISTICS:

- 50% of children between the ages of 2 – 15 already have fatty streaks in their arteries, this is early-stage heart disease.
- Children as young as 8 years old are being prescribed cholesterol and blood pressure-lowering drugs.
- Type 2 diabetes, formerly called “adult-onset”, is becoming increasingly more common in elementary children.
- 33% of all US children will end up with type 2 diabetes at some point in their lives. 40 – 53% of African American and Latino children will get type 2 diabetes at some point in their lives.
- 35% of cancer deaths are caused by diet, and processed meats, on most school menus (New York City removed them). They are Group 1 Carcinogens, according to the World Health Organization.
- Research funded by the National Cancer Institute shows that milk and dairy products may be associated with an increased risk for breast cancer and prostate cancer.
- Red and processed meat and eggs are associated with increased risk of prostate cancer.

SUMMARY OF BILL:

- Upon request by a student or person in parental relation to the student, public schools will offer the student a plant-based food option as an alternative to meals and snacks offered through the food service departments. The public school's written material describing food offerings will include the availability of a plant-based food option.
 - “Plant-based food option” is defined as being free of animal products & recognized by the US Department of Agriculture as a meat alternative.
- Schools are required to respond in a reasonable manner and time to any request.



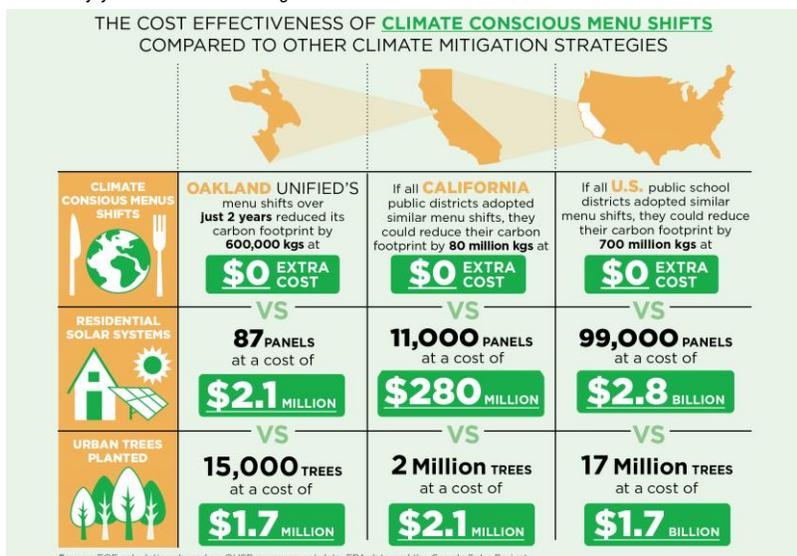
Student enjoys Tofu Fried Rice using NYS Tofu

- ❖ New York City and Ithaca public schools already offer at least one plant-based meat alternate per day, thanks to Coalition for Healthy School Food.
- ❖ New York City offers schools the option of a completely vegetarian menu.
- ❖ Ithaca menus plant-based hot entrees two to three times per week.
- ❖ Plant-Based Options result in better attendance, grades, and behavior!

New York City schools adopted Meatless Mondays thanks to the NYS Mayor and Brooklyn Borough President Eric Adams, who reversed his diabetes by switching to a plant-based diet.



Healthy Plant-Powered Meals from Around the World



- ❖ Research from Friends of the Earth shows that switching to more plant-based meals results in carbon savings that would cost millions of dollars to achieve through technology, at the same time saving the school district \$42,000 over the study period of two years.

Research from Friends of the Earth, www.foe.org

CODE RED/CODE BLUE

An act to amend the agriculture and markets law, in relation to code red and blue alerts for companion animals during extreme weather; and to repeal certain provisions of such law relating to the confinement of animals in vehicles.

A.03066 Assembly Member Epstein

S.4999 Senator Skoufis

Co-sponsors: Krueger

REFERRED TO AGRICULTURE, A/M Lupardo, Chair

REFERRED TO AGRICULTURE, Senator Hinchey,
Chair



Miraculously, this cat was found in time; the dog did not make it.

BACKGROUND:

- Every year in New York State domestic companion animals fall victim to extreme weather that often prove fatal.
- On average, most pet owners and guardians care enough to keep their animals indoors when the weather's extreme, however, for whatever reason, some leave their animals outdoors. This is a blatant form of neglect which, all too often, leads to injury and in some cases death.
- Between 2017 and 2018, there were at least 50 companion animal deaths related to cold weather—and those are just the ones that were reported.
- Animal fatalities due to heat stroke are just as common, although they may not be reported as often by the media.
- Animal control and humane societies are inundated with complaints concerning animals left out in the cold, heat, or other extreme weather conditions, however, there is little they can do.
- **Currently there is no New York State law on the books that requires a pet owner or guardian to protect their animals in extreme weather.**

SUMMARY OF PROPOSED BILL:

- Creates the code red and code blue alert system and the appropriate procedures for law enforcement when an owner violates this section.
- Requires the Department to issue code red and code blue alerts through public service announcements.
- Prohibits owners from leaving a companion animal inside a vehicle during a code red or code blue alert; owners who are on premises while violating this section will be issued a notice to bring their animals indoors. If owner does not comply and continues to leave the animal outside, law enforcement can seize the animal. When the owner cannot be located, law enforcement may take the necessary steps to seize the animal. If animal is seized, law enforcement must provide written notice. A seized animal will be delivered to a humane society or SPCA after receiving emergency medical care.
- Any person who knowingly or after receiving a warning, leaves a companion animal outside, or inside a vehicle, during a code red or code blue alert, will be guilty of a violation not less than \$500 nor more than \$1000 for the first offense and not less than \$1000 nor more than \$2000 for the second offense.

ESTABLISH A CRIME REGISTRY OF ALL CONVICTED ANIMAL ABUSERS IN NEW YORK

An act to amend the executive law, in relation to the creation of an animal cruelty and animal fighting database.

A.01549 Assembly Member Rosenthal L

Co-sponsors Lupardo, Dinowitz, Hevesi, Colton, Benedetto, Englebright, Otis, Perry, Stirpe, Montesano, Hunter, Galef, Byrne, Simon, Seawright, Walczyk

Multi-sponsors: Barnwell, Cook, Glick, Gottfried, McDonough, Thiele

REFERRED TO AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE, A/M Lupardo, Chair

S. 5156 Senator Brooks

REFERRED TO CODES COMMITTEE, Senator Bailey, Chair

FAMOUS ANIMAL ABUSERS



Nikolas Cruz

Ted Bundy

Jeffrey Dahmer

David Berkowitz

THE LINK BETWEEN ANIMAL CRUELTY AND HUMAN VIOLENCE IS INDISPUTABLE

BACKGROUND:

- The link between violence against animals and violence against human beings is well documented. According to the FBI, those who harm animals are four times more likely to commit violence against other people. Individuals who mistreat, abuse, or kill domestic animals or wildlife often extend that behavior to humans in the form of domestic violence, child abuse, and in certain cases, even murder. It is essential for the safety and well-being of the community to deal seriously with crimes against animals, and to keep animal abusers from potential victims.
- A database of this kind would further assist law enforcement by providing a catalog of individuals who may not show up in other databases. Many criminals who have performed violent acts against another person have "started small" by harming animals.
- Albany, Rockland, Ulster, Westchester, Suffolk, Orange, Nassau, and Cattaraugus Counties, and NYC have recognized the importance of an animal abuse registry and have passed laws to establish them. A statewide law would close the loopholes that currently exist when a convicted animal abuser changes location.

SUMMARY OF PROPOSED BILL:

- It shall establish and maintain a crime database of all convictions in New York state of animal cruelty, animal fighting, animal neglect, animal abandonment, and mistreatment of animals as set forth in article twenty-six of the agriculture and markets law and the penal law where data of such crimes shall be collected and displayed in a manner that facilitates analysis and the protection of animals.
- Convictions shall also include pleas to a charge other than animal cruelty, animal fighting, animal neglect, animal abandonment, and mistreatment of animals as set forth in article twenty-six of the agriculture and markets law and the penal law in satisfaction of the animal cruelty, animal fighting, animal neglect, animal abandonment or other animal mistreatment charge or where the animal cruelty, animal fighting, animal neglect, animal abandonment or other animal mistreatment charge has not resulted in a dismissal on the merits.
- Such crime database shall include, but not be limited to, names and ages of persons eighteen years of age or older who have been convicted of animal cruelty, animal fighting, animal neglect, animal abandonment.
- The crime database shall be in print and in electronic form and shall be available to all law enforcement entities, district attorneys, duly incorporated humane societies, societies for the prevention of cruelty to animals, dog and cat protective associations and animal control officers.

PET STORE BILL

An act to amend the agriculture and markets law and the general business law, in relation to the sale of dogs, cats, and rabbits.

A.04283 Assembly Member Rosenthal L

Co-sponsors Barnwell, Epstein, Cruz, Hunter, Gottfried, Glick, Seawright, Fernandez, Paulin, Lavine, Fahy, Kim, Wallace, Jacobson, Dinowitz, Dickens, Benedetto, Colton, Schmitt, Weprin, Quart, Englebright, Frontus, Otis, Bronson, De La Rosa, Reyes, Niou, Ramos, Bichotte Hermelyn, Gallagher, Anderson, Kelles, Gonzalez-Rojas, Burke, Pheffer Amato, Forrest, Burdick, Burgos, McDonald, Clark

Multi-sponsors: Hevesi, Simon, Thiele

REFERRED TO AGRICULTURE, A/M Lupardo, Chair

S. 1130 Senator Gianaris

Co-sponsors: Addabbo, Biaggi, Boyle, Brisport, Brooks, Gullivan, Gaughran, Gounardes, Hoylman, Jackson, Kaminsky, Krueger, Liu, Mattered, Myrie, Palumbo, Ramos, Salazar, Serrano, Skoufis, Stavinsky, Thomas, Weik

REFERRED TO AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE, Senator Hinchey, Chair



Photo courtesy of the Humane Society of the United States

BACKGROUND:

- Rescue organizations are overloaded, and shelters are full. Due to the lack of true no-kill shelters countless animals are tragically euthanized. Yet commercial facilities are needlessly breeding more animals in inhumane conditions. Predictably, many of the animals bred in these “puppy and kitten mills” are unhealthy, and wind up in this overburdened system as well.

SUMMARY OF PROPOSED BILL:

- Prohibits the sale of dogs, cats and rabbits by retail pet shops; authorizes collaboration with entities to provide space to showcase cats, dogs, or rabbits owned by certain entities for the purpose of adoption.
- Bill A04283/S1130 which would prohibit the sale of pets bred in these commercial facilities is a much-needed step to curb this vicious cycle of neglect, abuse and suffering.
- This would be a state ban, but it can have a far-reaching effect by closing some of these appalling breeding facilities around the country, as well as saving those animals in our local streets and shelters so desperately in need of homes.

LIVE-ANIMAL MARKETS

An act to amend the agriculture and markets law, in relation to prohibiting the operation of establishments where animals and/or fowls are slaughtered and butchered for food.

A.03629 Assembly Member Rosenthal L
Co-sponsors: Englebright, Epstein, Hevesi

S. 03182 Senator Sepulveda
Co-sponsors: Harckham, Mayer

REFERRED TO AGRICULTURE, A/M Lupardo, Chair

REFERRED TO AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE,
Senator Hinchey, Chair



BACKGROUND:

- Live markets allow customers to shop directly from cages of live animals, who are then slaughtered and butchered on site. Live animal markets are a welcome mat for coronaviruses. These markets are breeding grounds for disease that can be deadly to humans as we have seen with COVID 19, SARS, H5N1 and MERS.
- To prevent the introduction, transmission and spread of communicable disease in NYS we must ban the facilities that hold live animals intended for human consumption. Live animal markets are also inhumane and cruel to animals and disregards the horrific conditions forced upon these animals.

SUMMARY OF PROPOSED BILL:

- Prohibits the operation of establishments where animals and/or fowls are slaughtered or butchered for food; establishes a task force on public health risks and animal welfare concerns of slaughterhouses.
- This bill will place a moratorium on the operation of live markets in New York State and establish a task force to examine the public health risks and animal welfare concerns they present.

BAN ON MANUFACTURE AND SALE OF COSMETICS TESTED ON ANIMALS

An act to amend the general business law, in relation to prohibiting the sale of cosmetics tested on animals.

A.05653 Assembly Member Rosenthal L

Co-sponsors Barrett, Gottfried, Epstein, Weprin, Gonzalez-Rojas, Simon

Multi-sponsor: Glick

REFERRED TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, A/M Bronson, Chair

S.4839 Senator Biaggi

Co-sponsors: Addabbo, Brisport, Cooney, Hoylman, Krueger, Serrano

REFERRED TO CONSUMER PROTECTION, Senator Thomas, Chair



Animals used in testing endure extreme pain and suffering, and often leads to misleading results for human safety.

BACKGROUND:

- Over the last 20 years, consumers of all ages have demanded that cosmetic companies stop using animals to test cosmetic products. In addition, many consumers seek to purchase products that bear the label "not tested on animals."
- Many cosmetic companies in the United States and abroad have responded to consumer demand by eliminating the use of animals for cosmetic testing.
- Animal testing raises serious concerns, including (1) subjecting animals to unnecessary pain and suffering and (2) that animal testing falls short of ensuring human safety and this testing can, in fact, be misleading.
- Modern, non-animal based cosmetic testing is far more accurate and follows guidelines established by the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) by using organisms like bacteria, tissues and cells from humans as well as sophisticated computer models or chemical methods.
- Many global companies have already implemented bans on animal testing and the sale of cosmetics that have been tested on animals.
- Because more than 30 countries already prohibit the sale of animal-tested products, U.S. companies doing business in those countries must already use non-animal testing methods. New York must join with the 30 other countries that have already outlawed animal-testing for cosmetics.
- Only cosmetic ingredients that were developed or manufactured predominately for cosmetics are impacted by this bill.

SUMMARY OF PROPOSED BILL:

- It shall be unlawful for any person, firm, partnership, corporation or association or agent or employee thereof to manufacture, knowingly import for profit, sell at retail or offer for sale at retail, any cosmetic if the final product or any component thereof was developed or manufactured using cosmetic animal testing.
- If there is such a violation, there is a civil penalty of not more than five hundred dollars for the first violation, and not more than one thousand dollars for each subsequent violation.

PROHIBITS KILLING CONTESTS

An act to amend the environmental conservation law, in relation to making contests, competitions, tournaments, and derbies to take wildlife unlawful.

A.05746 Assembly Member Glick

Co-sponsors: Englebright, Simon, Jackson, Gonzalez-Rojas, Epstein, O'Donnell

REFERRED TO ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION,
A/M Englebright, Chair



Killing contests that serve no conservation purpose put children in danger and teach a lesson of killing for fun.

BACKGROUND:

- Wildlife killing events target wildlife species for which there are no protections. Frequently, there is no limit to the number of animals that may be killed. The participants who kill the greatest number, the largest, the heaviest, or some other criterion for assessing wildlife-killing success, are declared winners and awarded prizes.
- A large amount of lead is introduced into the environment at one time that other animals ingest. The concentration of lead can result in lead poisoning or contributes to or can cause lead poisoning.
- *The wanton and wasteful killing of wildlife interrupts the natural ecology and actually INCREASES populations via a well-known biological phenomenon called *Compensatory Rebound*, which results from the remaining members having more food available, and consequently a higher birthrate the following season. With coyotes, once the alpha pair is destroyed, all the coyotes will begin to breed, leading to a continuing supply of animals to kill.
- Recently, in Brockport, NY, hundreds of hunters participated in the Annual Squirrel Slam to see who could bag the heaviest set of five squirrels in one day. The first prize was \$200. The first prize in the children's division was \$50. This contest was sponsored by the local Elks Lodge.
- Bars and other drinking establishments tend to organize or conduct these events, which encourages a drinking party atmosphere and often encourages shooting while drinking, which is ignored by the regulators.

SUMMARY OF PROPOSED BILL:

- Makes it unlawful for any person to organize, sponsor, conduct, promote or participate in any contest, competition, tournament, or derby with the objective of taking or hunting wildlife for prizes or for other inducement, or for entertainment.
- Violations involving such unlawful contests [etc.] will be punishable by imprisonment for not more than one year or by a fine of not less than five hundred dollars nor more than two thousand dollars, or by imprisonment and fine.

HUMANE EDUCATION

An act to amend the education law, in relation to expanding the requirements for teaching humane education to secondary school students and provides for the verification of compliance of such instruction.

A.02082 Assembly Member Rosenthal L

Co-sponsors: Colton

Multi-sponsors: Glick, Simon

REFERRED TO EDUCATION COMMITTEE, A/M Benedetto, Chair



BACKGROUND:

- This bill is needed to ensure that elementary and secondary school students in New York State are properly instructed in the humane treatment and protection of animals and the importance of the part they play in the economy of nature as well as the necessity of controlling the proliferation of animals which are subsequently abandoned and caused to suffer extreme cruelty.
- For secondary school students, such instruction would involve educating students about the principles of kindness to and respect for animals and the proper observance of laws and rules pertaining to their humane treatment.
- Meena Alagappan is the Executive Director of HEART (Humane Education Advocates Reaching Teachers), a non-profit organization dedicated to fostering compassion and respect for all living beings and the environment by educating youth and teachers in Humane Education. Several studies have found that for both male and female students, appropriate educational curricula can enhance sensitivity to the human-animal bond. "By "pro-animal" we mean a perspective that seeks to develop empathy and compassion in relation to other living beings and which, through the development of critical thinking, seeks to affect students at the cognitive, affective, and behavioral levels. The course throughout stresses the development and importance of animal rights." (Journal For Critical Animal Studies) Alagappan is a strong advocate of Humane Education and bill A2082 be made into law.

SUMMARY OF PROPOSED BILL:

- This bill expands the requirements for teaching humane education to secondary school students.
- Requires that that the officer, board, or commission authorized or required to prescribe courses of instruction shall cause instruction to be given in every secondary school under state control or supported wholly or partly by public money of the state, in the humane treatment and protection of animals and the importance of the part they play in the economy of nature as well as the necessity of controlling the proliferation of animals which are subsequently abandoned and caused to suffer extreme cruelty.
- The commissioner shall determine how to incorporate such instruction in existing curricula and shall promulgate any regulations needed to carry out such determination. The Commissioner shall maintain records verifying school compliance with the provisions of this section and shall make such information available to the public, including on its website.
 - Animal Humane Education can be defined as the teaching of compassion and empathy for all living beings and respect for their habitats.
 - Animal Welfare Institute (AWI) encourages teachers and educators to incorporate animal-friendly science education into their lessons and teach respect for – rather than exploitation of animals.
 - The NY State Humane Association (NYSHA) has websites of many animal protection agencies which offer ideas, projects, and plans that fit into any subject matter. These resources would be of no cost to the schools. NYSHA encourages lawmakers to make reasonably enforceable mandates to teach compassion at an early age and continue doing it throughout a student's academic career. "It's never too late to start teaching children compassion and responsibility toward animals."
- A school district shall not be entitled to receive public school funding on behalf of any school subject to the provisions of this section if that school fails to provide the instruction required pursuant to this section.

TETHERING

An act to amend the agriculture and markets law, in relation to outdoor restraint of companion animals.

A.01410 Assembly Member Rosenthal L

REFERRED TO AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE,
A/M Lupardo, Chair



photo from change.org

BACKGROUND:

- While some restrictions on the tethering of dogs are codified and enforced in New York State, and even more specific restrictions have been passed by some local governments, many of these restrictions are vague, contradictory or unnecessarily complicated.
- More uniform restrictions need to be put in place on a state level so that law enforcement and animal control officers can better enforce the law, ensure compliance and protect vulnerable animals.
 - Such as no unattended tethering requires that a person be physically present and attending to the dog at all times. This is easier to enforce than timed tethering and has been very successful.

SUMMARY OF PROPOSED BILL:

- Relates to outdoor restraints of companion animals; prohibits tethering for more than 3 hours or a time approved by in writing by animal control but not to exceed 12 hours in any 24 hour period; prohibits tethering when a weather advisory or warning is in effect; tethered dogs must be free of cruel conditions or inhumane tethering; misdemeanor.

Notes:

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