2022

LEGISLATIVE AGENDA AND BILLS

The League of Humane Voters® of New York
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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, farmed, 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 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.301 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, Jackson, Stern, Simon, Englebright, Kelles, McMahon, Rosenthal L, McDonald, Cymbrowitz, Dinowitz, DeLosantos
Multi-sponsor: Galef, Miller M.
REFFERED TO EDUCATION, A/M Benedetto, Chair

S.1726 Senator Hoylman
Co-sponsors: Addabbo, Brisport, Harckham, Jackson, Myrie, Rivera, Savino, Sepulveda, Skoufis
REFFERED TO EDUCATION, Senator Mayer, Chair

Children enjoy trip to Farmers Market in NYC
Children play with NYS Grown Dry Beans in Ithaca

NYS grown Tofu, and Vegetables can be 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:

- Research shows that the more plant-based foods a person eats, the lower their risk of overweight/obesity, high cholesterol, high blood pressure, heart disease, type 2 diabetes, certain cancers, and Alzheimer’s disease.
- Research also shows that overweight/obesity, heart disease, type 2 diabetes, high cholesterol and high blood pressure can be successfully reversed with a low-fat plant-based diet. For example, NYC Mayor Eric Adams reversed his type 2 diabetes.
- Many schools already offer plant-based entrees, which already fit into the food budget. If plant-based entrees cost more, all the schools that already offer plant-based entrees would not be able to.
- According to research published in the Journal Science, significantly reducing the consumption of animal products is the single biggest action an individual can take to address climate change.
- NYC schools began offering at least one PB entrée in all 1700 schools in 2018. They also offer an optional vegetarian menu which schools can opt in to. The vegetarian menu costs less to produce than the standard menu.
- Schools want students to participate in the meal program. If students want to eat healthy, why wouldn’t a school want to support them? Students who consume more plant-based foods will have a stronger immune system which is always important but especially now due to the pandemic.

Images and health statistics from Coalition for Healthy School Food * www.healthyschoolfood.org

Our Children’s Health is at Risk… Plant-Powered Options Help Them Practice What We Teach
STATISTICS:

- One out of three children and seven out of ten adults are overweight or obese.
- 50% of children between the ages of 2 – 15 already have fatty streaks in their arteries, literally 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 school-age 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... if their diets don’t dramatically change.
- 35% of cancer deaths are caused by diet, and processed meats are on most school menus (New York City removed them). They are Group 1 Carcinogens, known to cause cancer in humans, 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” is defined as being free of all animal products. The USDA recognizes many options to meat and dairy for the “Meat/Meat Alternate” component of the meal, including beans, lentils, tofu, tempeh, and products derived from them.
- Schools are required to respond in a reasonable manner and time to any request

New York City schools adopted Meatless Fridays thanks to the NYC Mayor Eric Adams, who reversed his diabetes by switching to a plant-based diet.

THE COST EFFECTIVENESS OF CLIMATE CONSCIOUS MENU SHIFTS COMPARED TO OTHER CLIMATE MITIGATION STRATEGIES

- 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 offer plant-based hotentrees two to three times per week.
- Many schools in New York State already offer plant-based options.
- Plant-Based Options result in better attendance, grades, and behavior!

- 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.
SECONDARY HUMANE EDUCATION

An act that expands the requirements for teaching humane education of animals to secondary school students; requires verification of compliance.

A.02082 Assembly Member Rosenthal L.
Co-sponsors: Colton, Thiele, Stern, Dinowitz
Multi-sponsors: Glick, Simon
REFERRED TO EDUCATION, A/M Benedetto, Chair

S.07670 Senator Harckham Co-sponsors: Addabbo
Multi-sponsors:
REFERRED TO EDUCATION, Senator Mayer, Chair

When children are taught kindness to animals in their formative years, it is a skill and mindset that they will carry with them throughout their lives.

BACKGROUND:
• Educating students on how to respect animals will help to raise empathetic and compassionate citizens.
• There is a direct tie between violence towards animals and violence towards humans.
• Teaching students to treat ALL living beings with respect is a preventative measure towards possible future violence.
• Teaching children to care for and protect animals will also help to protect local ecological systems.
• Such classes would also educate students on local animal cruelty laws pertaining to abandonment, tethering, and other issues. This will help them to recognize animal abuse when they see it and to become better pet owners and more compassionate citizens.

SUMMARY OF PROPOSED BILL:
• Such curriculum will be wholly or partly publicly funded, as part of a typical school curriculum.
• Commissioners must decide how humane education will fit into pre-existing school curriculum such as literature, reading, language, nature study or ethnology.
• Such weekly instruction may be divided into two or more periods.
• If schools do not provide humane education courses, they will not receive the funding allocated for such courses.
LIVE ANIMAL MARKET BAN

An act which prohibits the operation of establishments where animals and/or fowls are slaughtered or butchered for food. It aims to establish a task force which addresses public health risks posed and animal welfare concerns.

**A.03629** Assembly Member Rosenthal L
Co-sponsors: Englebright, Epstein, Hevesi, Jackson, Stern, Dinowitz, Glick

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

REFERRED TO AGRICULTURE, A/M Lupardo, Chair

PHOTOS FROM URBAN NY LIVE MARKETS

![Animal market photos]

Animals are kept in close, dirty, inhumane living quarters where they are then slaughtered in sometimes unsterile ways.

BACKGROUND:

- Live markets are cruel to animals because they are kept in cramped, overcrowded and dirty living quarters.
- Live markets are cruel to animals because they are killed inhumanely.
- NY live markets present a health risk to their surrounding communities because animal blood and feces can often be seen in or around the stores.
- As we have seen with Covid-19, live markets can and have resulted in the spread of zoonotic diseases.

SUMMARY OF PROPOSED BILL:

- Live markets have been tied to the spread of zoonotic diseases. This bill would eliminate one source of the spreading of such diseases.
- Under this law, no new licenses for live markets will be issued and those licenses which are pre-existing will be suspended.
- Such task force shall consist of seven members, to be appointed as follows: one member to be appointed by the governor; two members to be appointed by the temporary president of the senate; two members to be appointed by the speaker of the assembly; one member to be appointed by the commissioner or his or her designee; and one member to be appointed by the commissioner of health or his or her designee.
- Appointees shall have expertise in infectious diseases, and, in particular, the potential spread of diseases between animals raised or slaughtered for food and humans. At least one such representative shall be from a duly incorporated animal welfare organization, and at least one such representative shall be a licensed veterinarian who is not employed by a government agency.
- No member, officer or employee of such task force shall be disqualified from holding any other public office or employment, nor shall he or she forfeit any such office or employment by reason of his or her appointment pursuant to this section.
- The members of such task force shall receive no compensation for their services, but shall be allowed their actual and necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their duties pursuant to this section.
- Such task force shall make a report of its findings to the governor, the temporary president of the senate, and the speaker of the assembly within one year of the date of the first meeting of the task force, which shall take place within thirty days of the appointment of the task force representatives.
- Such report shall include recommendations for further action and legislation.
- Nothing in this section shall be construed to apply to any facilities other than live poultry or small animal slaughterhouses pursuant to this article which are open to the public.
- This act shall take effect immediately.
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 Co-sponsors: Thiele, Stern, Dinowitz, Englebright, Buttenschon

S.4999 Senator Skoufis Co-sponsors: Krueger, Addabbo

REFERRED TO AGRICULTURE, A/M Lupardo, Chair

REFERRED TO AGRICULTURE, Senator Hinchey, Chair

BACKGROUND:

- Every year in New York State domestic companion animals fall victim to extreme weather that often proves fatal.
- On average, most pet owners and guardians care enough to keep their animals indoors when the weather is 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 many cases death.
- Nationally, between 2018 and the present, there were at least 118 companion animal deaths related to cold weather, and hundreds were rescued—and those are just the ones that were reported.
- Animal fatalities due to heat stroke are just as problematic, although they may not be reported as often by the media. During the same time period there were over 200 deaths related to heat, and hundreds were rescued. The cause of death often was because the animals were left unattended in overheated vehicles.
- Animal control and humane societies are inundated with complaints concerning animals left out in the cold, heat, or other extreme weather conditions.
- This alert system would notify pet owner of extreme weather conditions, and warn them of the dangers they pose to their pets and the measures that must be taken to protect them.

SUMMARY OF PROPOSED BILL (PROPOSED CHANGES TO BILL ARE HIGHLIGHTED):

- Creates the code red and code blue alert system and the appropriate procedures for law enforcement when an owner violates this section. This system shall be in effect when extreme weather conditions exist.
- Extreme weather conditions shall include inclement weather, being weather conditions that are likely to adversely affect the health or safety of the animal, including but not limited to: rain, sleet, ice, snow, wind or extreme hot or cold temperatures, and otherwise consistent with the provisions of New York State Agriculture and Markets Law 3530b.
- Extreme weather conditions shall exist when there is a “weather alert” from a broadcast of the National Weather Service regarding one of the following weather-related events: blizzard warning, severe thunderstorm (watch or warning), severe weather statement, tornado (watch or warning), winter storm (watch or warning).
- “Cold Code Blue” is declared when temperature is 32 degrees Fahrenheit or lower, temperature is 40 degrees Fahrenheit or lower with precipitation, or wind chill is 32 degrees Fahrenheit or lower for a period of one hour or more, or there are ice storms, freezing rain or snow.
- “Hot Code Red” is declared when the temperature is 85 degrees Fahrenheit or higher, or the Heat index is expected to reach 80 degrees.
- Owners are prohibited from leaving companion animals outside, and from leaving companion animals inside a vehicle during a code red (animals may not be left in a vehicle when outdoor temperature is 70 degrees or more) or code blue alert. Animals may not be muzzled during a code red alert. If owner does not comply, the police or animal control officers can seize the animal.
- The police or animal control officers shall have the authority to assess the situation and determine if the animal is in distress or danger whenever a call is made, or they come across an animal in distress or danger.
- If animal is seized the police or animal control officers must provide written notice.
- A seized animal will be delivered to a humane society or SPCA after receiving emergency care.
- Any person who knowingly, or after 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 of 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.
- All police academies shall include this bill in their curriculum, as well as in the training manuals for both police and animal control officers.
PET SHOP ACT

An act which prohibits the sale of dogs, cats and rabbits by retail pet shops; authorizes collaboration with entities to provide space to showcase cats or dogs owned by certain entities for the purpose of adoption.

**A.4283 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, Rivera J, Williams, Zinerman, McDonough, Mitaynes, Mamdani, Jackson, Lunsford, Davila, Ra, Miller M, Brown, Gandolfo, Rivera JD, Conrad, Carroll

Multi-sponsors: Brabenec, Hevesi, Simon, Thiele

REFERRED TO CODES, A/M Dinowitz, Chair

**S. 01130 Senator Gianaris**

Co-sponsors: Addabo, Bailey, Biaggi, Boyle, Brissett, Brooks, Gallivan, Gaughran, Gounardes, Holyman, Jackson, Kaminsky, Krueger, Liu, Mattera, Mayer, Myrie, Palumbo, Ramos, Salazar, Serrano, Skoufis, Stavisky, Thomas, Weik

Multi-sponsors: None

REFERRED TO AGRICULTURE, Senator Hinchey, Chair

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**BACKGROUND**

- Many, if not most animals in pet stores are bred in puppy mills or similar conditions. Puppy mills are essentially overcrowded, under-cared for breeding factories where baby animals are churned out for profit and then often neglected and placed in cramped quarters.
- A large portion of animals that are bought in pet stores have significant physical and behavioral problems due to their negligent upbringing.
- Despite private and municipal shelters being overcrowded and many innocent homeless animals being euthanized, puppy mills and breeders continue to churn out more animals.
- This act would ensure that instead of pet stores selling animals which were bred for the purpose of being sold in a pet store, they would be used as venues for rescue, animal welfare, and humane non-profit to conduct adoptions of animals in need.

**SUMMARY**

- Pet shops would be prohibited from obtaining their animals from breeders, due to the rampant animal abuse that occurs in breeding settings.
- Non—profits will be denied registration if they are licensed as a “pet dealer.”
- This act is effective one year after it becomes law.
PROHIBIT KILLING CONTESTS

An act to amend the environmental conservation law, in relation to making animal killing contests, competitions, tournaments, and derbys unlawful.

**A.5746 Assembly Member Glick**

**S.06643 Senator Kennedy**
Co-sponsors: Brisport, Giannaris, Harkham, Kavanaugh, Krueger, May

**REFERRED TO CODES, A/M Dinowitz, Chair**

**REFERRED TO ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION, Senator Kaminsky, Chair**

Killing contests that serve no conservation purpose put children in danger, teach a lesson of killing for fun, and poison the environment adversely affecting human health.

**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.
- There is no scientific justification or validation that supports the notion wildlife contests help control wildlife populations.

**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.
PROTECT CONSUMERS: BAN THE MANUFACTURE AND SALE OF COSMETICS TESTED ON ANIMALS

An act to prohibit the manufacture or sale of cosmetics tested on animals.

A.05653B Assembly Member Rosenthal L
Co-sponsors Barrett, Gottfried, Epstein, Weprin, Gonzalez-Rojas, Simon, Jackson, Stern, Engelbright, Tapia, Stippe, Seawright, Dinowitz, Bronson, Kelles, Fahy, Silitti, Griffin, Davila, Burke, Paulin, Mamdani, Rivera, J., Lavine, Santabarbara

S.4839B Senator Biaggi
Co-sponsors Addabbo, Boyle, Brisport, Cooney, Hoylman, Krueger, Myrie, Reichlin-Melnick, Serrano

Multi-sponsor: Glick

REFERRED TO CODES, A/M Dinowitz, Chair

REFERED TO CONSUMER PROTECTION, Senator Kevin 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 Cooperation 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.
- The European Union banned the testing of cosmetics on animals in the EU in 2013 moreover, they have banned the marketing or sale of cosmetics that have been tested on animals outside the EU. Since then, Norway, Switzerland, Israel, Turkey, India, Guatemala, Taiwan, and New Zealand have instituted bans on testing or marketing. Other countries, including Canada and Australia, have pending legislation.
- In 2018 California signed into law the Cruelty-Free Cosmetics Act. The law has made it unlawful for cosmetic manufacturers to sell any cosmetic in California if the final product or any component of the product was tested on animals after Jan. 1, 2020. There are, however, some exceptions for regulatory requirements.

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 or export 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 thousand dollars for the first violation, and not more than one thousand dollars per day if the violation continues.
ANIMAL PROTECTION REGISTRY

An act to create a database of all convictions in New York state of animal cruelty, fighting, neglect, abandonment and mistreatment.

A.01549 Assembly Member Rosenthal L
Co-sponsors: Lupardo, Dinowitz, Hevesi, Colton, Benedetto, Englebright, Otis, Perry, Stirpe, Montesano, Hunter, Galef, Byrne, Simon, Seawright, Walczyk, Stern

S. 5156 Senator Brooks Co-sponsors: Addabbo

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

REFERRED TO AGRICULTURE, A/M Lupardo, Chair
REFERRED TO CODES, 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 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.
- [LOHV PROPOSED AMENDMENT: Following a first conviction, and the successful completion of a required humane education program, an individual's name will be expunged from the Registry]
- This act is effective one year after it becomes law.
League of Humane Voters® (LOHV®) - Mission

LOHV's mission 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 vote for and influence animal protection.