

STATE OF NEW YORK

8431--A

IN SENATE

February 28, 2022

Introduced by Sens. PARKER, CLEARE, HOYLMAN, KENNEDY, SEPULVEDA -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Environmental Conservation -- committee discharged, bill amended, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee

AN ACT in relation to directing the department of environmental conservation in conjunction with the environmental justice interagency coordinating council and the climate justice working group to conduct a study on the impacts of the urban island effect on disadvantaged communities

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

1 Section 1. The department of environmental conservation, in consultation with the environmental justice interagency coordinating council and
2 the climate justice working group, shall conduct a study on the impacts
3 of the urban heat island effect on disadvantaged communities. The study
4 shall at a minimum, identify urban disadvantaged communities with
5 concentrations of heat islands, include recommendations on how to identify, prevent and address adverse health and environmental impacts from
6 urban heat island effects, and include existing and/or recommended funding available to address such impacts, including but not limited to
7 projects eligible pursuant to paragraph e of subdivision 1 of section
8 58-0703 of the environmental conservation law.

9 § 2. For the purposes of this study:

10 (a) "Disadvantaged communities" shall mean communities that are identified pursuant to section 75-0111 of the environmental conservation
11 law.

12 (b) "Urban heat island effect" means the phenomenon when pavement and
13 other infrastructure absorbs and stores large quantities of solar radiation during the day and releases it during the nighttime, leading to an
14 increase in the surface temperatures of the immediate area.

15 (c) "Heat islands" means urbanized areas that experience higher
16 temperatures than outlying areas due to structures such as buildings,
17 roads, and other infrastructure absorbing and reemitting the sun's heat

EXPLANATION--Matter in italics (underscored) is new; matter in brackets [-] is old law to be omitted.

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1 more than natural landscapes such as forests and water bodies. Urban
2 areas, where these structures are highly concentrated and greenery is
3 limited, become "islands" of higher temperatures relative to outlying
4 areas.

5 § 3. The department of environmental conservation shall deliver to the
6 governor, the legislature, and post on its public website, a report of
7 its findings no later than eighteen months after the effective date of
8 this act.

9 § 4. This act shall take effect immediately.