

STATE OF NEW YORK

10001

IN ASSEMBLY

April 29, 2022

Introduced by M. of A. CUNNINGHAM -- read once and referred to the
Committee on Environmental Conservation

AN ACT in relation to directing the department of environmental conservation in conjunction with the environmental justice interagency coordinating council to conduct a study on the disproportionate impact of increased heat in primarily Black and Latino neighborhoods

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, shall conduct a study on the effects of the urban heat island effect on majority Black and Latino neighborhoods in urban settings within the state that fit the description of heat islands.

2 § 2. For the purposes of this study:

3 (a) Black and Latino neighborhoods shall be characterized as those comprised of fifty-one percent or more of Black residents, Latino residents or a combination of both. The study shall analyze the health impacts of increased heat in these neighborhoods in comparison to those of White neighborhoods.

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

5 (c) "heat islands" means urbanized areas that experience higher temperatures than outlying areas due to structures such as buildings, roads, and other infrastructure absorbing and reemitting the sun's heat more than natural landscapes such as forests and water bodies. Urban areas, where these structures are highly concentrated and greenery is limited, become "islands" of higher temperatures relative to outlying areas.

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

7 § 4. This act shall take effect immediately.

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

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