

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 consulta-
2 tion with the environmental justice interagency coordinating council,
3 shall conduct a study on the effects of the urban heat island effect on
4 majority Black and Latino neighborhoods in urban settings within the
5 state that fit the description of heat islands.

6 § 2. For the purposes of this study:

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

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

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

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

27 § 4. This act shall take effect immediately.

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

LBD14866-01-2