STATE OF NEW YORK

9816

IN SENATE

April 6, 2026

Introduced by Sen. OBERACKER -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Transportation

AN ACT requiring the department of transportation and the governor's traffic safety committee, in coordination and consultation with the state university of New York and the city university of New York, as well as the state university of New York College of Optometry and any automotive programs within the state university of New York and the city university of New York, to conduct a study on the impacts of LED headlight glare on motorists' safety, and providing for the submission of a report to the governor and the legislature

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

Section 1. Short title. This act shall be known and may be cited as the "brightness emission analysis for motorist safety (BEAMS) act".

§ 2. Legislative intent. The legislature finds that contemporary automotive light emitting diode (LED) headlights, while designed to improve visibility and safety for individual motorists, may pose significant hazards to oncoming drivers and the general traveling public due to increased glare or brightness. Excessive headlight glare or brightness has become a growing safety concern across the State and the nation. While high-intensity LED lighting may reduce certain collision risks for the motorist using such technology, the unintended consequences for oncoming motorists, including impaired vision, temporary blindness, and potential long-term eye health concerns must be examined. The legislature recognizes the importance of imploring the federal government to act in conjunction with automotive manufacturers to address this issue. However, New York state possesses the resources and expertise to conduct an independent study to further understand the impacts of LED headlight glare. The results of this study will inform state-level policies, support advocacy for federal action, and improve roadway safety for all motorists. Therefore, this act directs the department of transportation and the governor's traffic safety committee, in consultation with academic institutions and technical experts, to perform a comprehensive analysis and produce a detailed report on this matter. The findings of

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

LBD13667-01-5

such study shall be transmitted to appropriate federal agencies and authorities for their consideration.

§ 3. (a) Definitions. For the purposes of this act, the following terms shall have the following meanings:

(i) "Commissioner" shall mean the commissioner of the New York state department of transportation.

(ii) "Committee" shall mean the governor's traffic safety committee.

(iii) "Department" shall mean the New York state department of transportation.

(iv) "Participating institution" shall mean the state university of New York and the city university of New York, as well as the state university of New York College of Optometry and any automotive programs within the state university of New York and the city university of New York.

(b) Study and report. The department and committee shall, within one year of the effective date of this section, in coordination and consultation with participating institutions, conduct a comprehensive study on the impacts of automotive headlight brightness and glare on motorist safety. Such study shall include, but not be limited to:

(i) examining LED low beam headlight and headlamp alignment standards and practices;

(ii) assessing glare intensity and its effect on oncoming motorists;

(iii) analyzing short-term and long-term health implications of LED headlight brightness and glare;

(iv) evaluating the dangers, risks, and potential liability associated with excessive brightness and glare;

(v) compiling relevant data, accident reports, or research findings pertaining to headlight brightness and glare; and

(vi) developing report on the findings of the study including, but not limited to, recommendations for mitigating LED headlight brightness and glare, including potential regulatory or technological solutions, and any additional information or data deemed appropriate by the department, committee, or participating institutions.

(c) Report. The commissioner shall deliver such report to the governor, the temporary president of the senate, the speaker of the assembly, the senate committees on health, insurance, and transportation, and the assembly committees on health, insurance, and transportation no later than one year after the effective date of this act. Such report shall be publicly posted on the department and committee's websites.

§ 4. This act shall take effect on the sixtieth day after it shall have become a law and shall expire and be deemed repealed one year after such effective date.