

# 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:

1 Section 1. Short title. This act shall be known and may be cited as  
2 the "brightness emission analysis for motorist safety (BEAMS) act".  
3 § 2. Legislative intent. The legislature finds that contemporary auto-  
4 motive light emitting diode (LED) headlights, while designed to improve  
5 visibility and safety for individual motorists, may pose significant  
6 hazards to oncoming drivers and the general traveling public due to  
7 increased glare or brightness. Excessive headlight glare or brightness  
8 has become a growing safety concern across the State and the nation.  
9 While high-intensity LED lighting may reduce certain collision risks for  
10 the motorist using such technology, the unintended consequences for  
11 oncoming motorists, including impaired vision, temporary blindness, and  
12 potential long-term eye health concerns must be examined. The legisla-  
13 ture recognizes the importance of imploring the federal government to  
14 act in conjunction with automotive manufacturers to address this issue.  
15 However, New York state possesses the resources and expertise to conduct  
16 an independent study to further understand the impacts of LED headlight  
17 glare. The results of this study will inform state-level policies,  
18 support advocacy for federal action, and improve roadway safety for all  
19 motorists. Therefore, this act directs the department of transportation  
20 and the governor's traffic safety committee, in consultation with  
21 academic institutions and technical experts, to perform a comprehensive  
22 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

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

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

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

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

8 (iii) "Department" shall mean the New York state department of trans-  
9 portation.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

34 (c) Report. The commissioner shall deliver such report to the gover-  
35 nor, the temporary president of the senate, the speaker of the assembly,  
36 the senate committees on health, insurance, and transportation, and the  
37 assembly committees on health, insurance, and transportation no later  
38 than one year after the effective date of this act. Such report shall be  
39 publicly posted on the department and committee's websites.

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