NYPIRG NEWS RELEASE

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WITH ELECTION IN REAR VIEW MIRROR, GOVERNOR HOCHUL MUST DECIDE THE FATE OF HUNDREDS OF BILLS

AS OF NOVEMBER 4TH, THERE ARE 388 BILLS PENDING

NYPIRG HIGHLIGHTS LEGISLATION THAT MERITS APPROVAL

(Albany, N.Y.) Now that the election is over, Governor Hochul will turn her attention to hundreds of bills that have been approved by both houses of the State Legislature and await her action. According to the most recent review, 388 of the 759 bills that passed both houses this year await the governor's signature.

Among those 388 bills, NYPIRG urged the governor to approve:

S926/A3318: This legislation would require that entities that administer 50 or more consumer arbitration proceedings in a year disclose information regarding those activities in a searchable public database. Such information includes the names of business parties, general location of the consumer parties, dispute type, prevailing party, the amount in dispute, the arbitrator's award (if any), the arbitrators' name and their fee.

S1280-B/A73-B: This legislation would require sellers to furnish warnings that gas and propane stoves used for commercial or residential food cooking emit poisonous gases hazardous to human health, which can cause or worsen respiratory problems. Warning labels would be required on products and display signs/posters, and notices required for online sales.

S4574-B/A5832-B: This bill would establish a PFAS surface water discharge disclosure requirement for all publicly owned treatment works (POTW) and state pollutant discharge elimination system (SPDES) permit holders and applicants. The bill would also require those discharging industrial waste to a POTW to test for PFAS in its waste. The Department of Environmental Conservation would be required to make available publicly all reported PFAS testing data on their website.

S4857-C/A463-B: Currently, ethics filings of elected officials are posted online. This legislation would expand that requirement to all candidates running for those positions.

S6165-A/A173-A: This bill would impose greater transparency and accountability on those not-for-profit corporations that engage in municipal economic development and function as an instrument and subsidiary of local government.

S6438-C/A3058-C: The bill would require the Attorney General to institute repairability scoring criteria that manufacturers would use to rate their digital products. Manufacturers would provide retailers with repair scores and supporting information and would place the repair score on the packaging on such products and display these scores on their websites.

S8451-B/A8962-B: This legislation creates the "New York Fundamental Artificial Intelligence Requirements in News Act" (the "FAIR News Act"). This bill would require conspicuous disclosure when news media content is substantially created by generative AI. If the content is eligible for copyright registration, this does not apply.

S8512-C/A9111-C: The "Solar Up Now NY ("SUNNY") Act" would exempt low-wattage portable solar generation devices that meet third-party safety standards (such as Underwriters Laboratories) from interconnection or net metering requirements. Device owners would be required to notify their utility of the solar panel's usage.

S8851/A9598: This legislation would update the species included in the list of tropical hardwoods subject to state purchasing limitations. The bill also removes certain exemptions from such purchases.

S9122/A10135: This legislation requires the Public Service Commission ("PSC") to develop, publish and periodically update a citizen guide to the gas and electric ratemaking processes. The guidebook, to be written in "plain language," would provide a glossary of relevant terms; an overview of the public's role in ratemaking; an explanation of how to access relevant documents; and sections on how to participate in utility ratemaking.

S10642/A11560: This legislation places a one-year moratorium on the issuance of large data center permits by the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC). The legislation exempts large data centers that have received approvals or started construction already. The legislation directs the DEC, in consultation with the DPS, DOH, EFC, and the state's ISO to issue an "environmental impact report" within 18 months of enactment, with detailed criteria and a public comment process. It also requires electric, gas, and water utilities to establish an independent classification of service for large data centers; sets energy efficiency goals; provides benefits for host communities; and establishes fair-labor standards. Data centers would need to meet efficiency and increasing renewable energy standards, topping out at "at least ninety percent of its electricity consumption" by 2040. Local public hearings would need to take place before the DEC may issue any permit or other form of approval.

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