

New York City Council

Memorandum in Support of Legislation

This memorandum is authored by the sponsor and explains the need for the legislation referenced below, in accordance with Rule 6.00(d) of the Rules of the Council.

Introduction Number:

Prime Sponsors:

Virginia Maloney

Bill Title:

To amend the administrative code of the city of New York, in relation to cleaning requirements for cooling towers.

Submitted by:

Council Member Virginia Maloney

Justification:

New York City has witnessed an uptick in Legionnaires' disease outbreaks, routinely impacting the health and well-being of residents. Current legislation requires cooling towers in NYC to be cleaned at least twice per calendar year, yet outbreaks continue to persist, particularly during the summer months. Legionella bacteria grow best in warm water, which utility pipes and hot water tanks often reach amidst hot weather.

This bill would require that owners of buildings with cooling towers clean the cooling towers at least three times a year, with at least one of the three cleanings occurring during the months of June and July. The increased attention to summer months will ensure the proactive reduction of legionella bacteria, protecting the health of NYC residents for years to come.