

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:

Int. No. 0166-2024

Prime Sponsors:

Council Member Amanda Farías

Bill Title:

A Local Law to amend the administrative code of the city of New York, in relation to requiring building owners to provide shower hoses and informational materials on Legionnaires' disease to tenants.

Submitted by:

Council Member Amanda Farías

Justification:

Legionnaires' disease remains a dangerous public health threat in New York City. It is a serious illness that can be fatal if not detected and treated quickly. When outbreaks occur, we have a responsibility to act swiftly and decisively to safeguard our neighbors. The 2022 outbreak in my district, where two individuals were infected at Clason Point Gardens Houses, was the catalyst for Int 166. In conversations with tenants, NYCHA, and the Department of Health, we learned that using handheld shower hoses can reduce the risk of exposure to aerosolized Legionella bacteria in contaminated water. This bill requires building owners to supply shower hoses to residents within 24 hours of the notification of a confirmed Legionnaires' case in the building—or in a nearby building on a shared water system. It also requires that residents receive clear, accessible informational materials from the Department of Health explaining what Legionnaires' disease is, how it spreads, and what steps they can take to protect themselves. This bill is a necessary step toward protecting our most vulnerable residents and ensuring no one is left unprotected in the face of a preventable threat.