



NYPIRG **Straphangers Campaign**

A project of the New York Public Interest Research Group Fund

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MEMO IN SUPPORT

A. 2000

Sponsored by Member of Assembly Rory Lancman

TITLE OF BILL: AN ACT to amend the public authorities law, in relation to enacting the "teleworking expansion act"

PURPOSE OF BILL: This bill aims to reduce congestion by increasing teleworking at New York State public authorities.

SUMMARY OF SPECIFIC PROVISIONS: The bill enacts the "teleworking expansion act," which provides that each public authority with twenty-five or more employees establish a program allowing employees to perform all or a part of their duties through teleworking to the "maximum extent possible without diminished employee performance." The bill defines the term "telework" to mean to perform normal and regular work functions at home that ordinarily would be performed at the authority's location or facility, thereby eliminating or substantially reducing the physical commute to and from such authority's principal location."

STATEMENT IN SUPPORT: Traffic congestion takes a tremendous toll on the economy and environment of New York State. Clogged highways mean higher shipping costs and reduced productivity. Air pollution results in serious respiratory illnesses and reduced quality of life.

A 2008 New York State Department of Transportation study for the New York State Traffic Congestion Mitigation Commission found that teleworking "may contribute to congestion management as one of a larger set of transportation demand management strategies."

One effective response to the curse of congestion is to encourage teleworking.

Forward thinking governments have been promoting teleworking. For example, the federal government requires its agencies to establish teleworking programs for its employees, and over 100,000 federal employees participate. New York's public authorities with more than twenty-five employees should be required to establish teleworking programs.

FISCAL IMPACT: Minimal

EFFECTIVE DATE: Ninety days after enactment.