



**ALLIANCE OF NEW YORK STATE YMCAs
YOUTH AND GOVERNMENT
Legislative Bill**

Bill # 5

**Referred to Committee:
5**

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Action on the Bill

Assembly

Senate

___ ☐ Passed

___ ☐ Passed

___ ☐ Defeated

___ ☐ Defeated

AN ACT TO: Discontinue the flow of human waste into the Great Lakes.

**The People of the State of New York, represented in the
Senate and Assembly do enact as follows:**

PURPOSE:

We initiate this bill to protect the Great Lakes from sewage waste. This act will protect the thousands of plants and animal species living in this environment. The local, state and the federal governments should be held responsible for renovations in sewage plants to discontinue the discharge of waste into our Great Lakes.

SUMMARY OF PROVISIONS

Section 1:

EPA: Environmental Protection Agency

Pathogen: a bacterium, virus, or other microorganism that can cause disease

Impairment: the state or fact of being impaired, weakened or damaged especially in a specified faculty.

Section 2:

I Protect the Great Lakes from Human waste by updating aging sewage treatment plants and pipes.

II Using a combination of local, state and federal taxes sewage systems shall be updated to ensure clean and unimpaired water within our Great Lakes.

JUSTIFICATION:

The sewage waste being discharged into the Great Lakes contaminates our drinking water. The more sewage waste that goes into the water of the Great lakes, the less fresh drinking water will be accessible for humans to consume. because the drinking water is not accessible for us to use, the EPA and the U.S. Coast Guard leave it there to dissipate into our Great Lakes. Other bills are in place to help protect our great lakes against toxic hazardous waste, scrap tire collection sites, radioactive materials, low-level radioactive waste generators, and medical waste generators; but not against human waste that overflows from sewage treatment plants.

Our bill would focus on human waste going into our freshwater resources. We want to insure that all the water that we use during our day to day lives, including the water we drink. Water and sand that are polluted with untreated sewage or with human and animal wastes may contain harmful bacteria or other disease-causing microorganisms, or pathogens. Along with possibly harming humans, the waste can cause impairment to organisms such as fish, ducks, insects, plants, animals that drink from the Great Lakes, and many other living organisms. The main culprit for this overflow is aging sewage treatment plants, and failing, leaking pipes. Our Great Lakes supply twenty percent of our world's fresh drinking water. Scientist believe as much as twenty four billion gallons of untreated sewage water is dumped to the Lakes every year, threatening seven hundred cities surrounding The Great Lakes.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS:

The money for this bill will come from a combination of local cities, and towns, the states in close proximity to the Great Lakes and federal taxes. It will cease with the worst of the sewage plants getting upgraded. It takes approximately \$500,000 to \$1,000,000 to fix each sewage plant.

EFFECTIVE DATE:

This bill will go into effect January 1st 2019 after passage, but will take years to decades to be completed.