



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

**Bill # 9**

**Referred to Committee:  
3**

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**Action on the Bill**

**Assembly**

**Senate**

\_\_\_  Passed

\_\_\_  Passed

\_\_\_  Defeated

\_\_\_  Defeated

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**AN ACT TO:** Improve guardrail safety on New York State roads.

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

**Purpose**

The Purpose of this bill is to increase the safety, protection, and efficiency of guardrails.

**Summary of Provisions**

**Section 1: Definitions**

Crash cushion- a device intended to reduce the damage to things resulting from a motor vehicle collision

Guardrail- a rail that prevents people from falling off or being hit by something

Friction- the resistance that one surface of an object encounters when moving over another

Barrier- a physical object that blocks the way

X-lite guardrail- guardrail end caps that typically are marked with black and yellow to notify there is a guardrail

**Section 2:** (or Section 1 if you have no definitions)

This bill will work to have crash cushions added to current X-lite guardrails. This will also stop the creation and implementation of X-lite guardrails in further production of guardrails. The overall purpose is to work to create safer guardrails for New York State drivers.

**Justification**

There are many ways that road safety can be improved on roads in New York State and the United States of America. Guardrails is one of them. In our bill, we want to make the ends of the guardrail better by implementing a crash cushion under the X-Lite of the Guardrail. Many states have removed the X-Lite structure from its guardrails, but this crash cushion would prevent the removal of the X-Lite and help to save New York State in having to build all new guardrails on the roads throughout the state. A western New York teen was killed recently in Tennessee because of an X-Lite on the end of a guardrail, when her vehicle hit it head on. According to lawyertime.com, in 2005 the manufacturer of the X-Lite guardrail redesigned a version of the X-lite without proper testing. This resulted in a higher risk of injury and death during an accident with these guardrails. Assemblyman Sean Ryan said, "We have an expectation when it comes to the roadways our state maintains, the infrastructure being installed should help us travel safely from point A to point B. The X-Lite guardrails are not functioning as intended, and are a danger to drivers across the country. We must take action to ensure the safety of drivers across New York." The crash cushion would reduce the risk of injury and death.

**Fiscal Implications**

Crash Cushions for guardrails can cost anywhere from \$200-500 each. With thousands of guardrails in New York State, it could cost New York State anywhere from \$2 million to \$10 million dollars to effectively increase the safety of New York State guardrails.

**Effective Date**

This bill will go into effect five years after passage.