



New York State YMCA
Youth And Government

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FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Committee Assignment: Assembly Liberty 1

Bill #:AL-07

1 **Sponsors:** Morgan Thompson, Aiden Genender, Kevin Nguyen

2

3 **An Act To** Amend Highway Law §142B to require the application of 20% beet juice
4 to road salt.

5

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

7

8 **Purpose** Create a more environmentally safe and efficient rock salt combination for
9 melting snow and ice on the roads of New York State by adding 20% sugar beet
10 juice to road salt.

11

12 **Summary of Provisions**

13

14

15 **Section 1** Definitions

16 Rock salt - Common salt occurring naturally from minerals which is used to keep
17 roads from icing.

18 Beetroot (beet) juice - The juice from within sugar beets. Calcium chloride -An
19 additive used in the current rock salt solution which helps maintain melting rates.

20

21 **Section 2**

22 §142B New York State Highway Law.

23 Removal of snow and ice, making of repairs, and rental of town highway
24 machinery; school and other districts. The town board of any town may authorize
25 the town superintendent to remove snow and ice from any property within the town
26 belonging to a school district, upon such terms as may be agreed upon by the town
27 board and governing board of any such school district. All roads will use a
28 combination of road salts which will include a combination of 20% beet juice and
29 80% road salt.

30

31 **Justification**

32 This bill will be a benefit to society in more ways than just one. With the
33 combination of both salt brine and beet juice, snow and ice will melt at much lower
34 temperatures and be less destructive to the streets and cars that drive on them.
35 Along with being a more effective and less destructive option, this combination will
36 make for a healthier substance within the environment. Right now, more than 600
37 thruways of New York are already pre-treating roadways with this combination to



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38 help roads for the destructive winter conditions, and it will further improve roads if
39 it is used on all treated New York State roads throughout the winter season.

40

41 **Fiscal Implications**

42 As of 2015, New York State spends more than \$2.3 million on snow and ice control
43 annually. Beet juice currently costs \$1.75 per gallon. By adding 20% beet juice and
44 eliminating 20% of the rock salt to the solution for roads, this could be
45 implemented for a similar cost. Sugar beets are typically found in the midwest,
46 which could lead to shipping costs. However, these shipping costs should be
47 covered by the money left over from the reduced amounts of rock salt which costs
48 approximately \$280.00 per ton.

49

50 **Environmental Implications**

51 As rock salt dissolves, it seeps into the ecosystems with the melting ice which leads
52 to damage of roadside plants and aquatic environments. The addition of beet juice
53 (a biodegradable and a more eco-friendly solution) causes rock salt to cling to the
54 sticky substance which will reduce excess runoff and be more environmentally
55 friendly. It will also lessen the amount of car and road damage.

56

57 **Effective Date**

58 The upcoming winter season of 2020-2021