



## MEMO OF SUPPORT

### [S7655 \(Salazar\) / A8022 \(Shrestha\)](#)

*Ends Automatic Approval of Some Gubernatorial Appointees*

January 19, 2024

#### **TITLE OF BILL**

An act to amend the public authorities law, in relation to Senate confirmation of certain chief executive officers; and to repeal section 2852 of the public authorities law relating thereto.

#### **SUMMARY OF PROVISIONS**

Section 1 repeals Public Authorities Law (PAL) §2852, which provides that gubernatorial appointments of chief executive officers of the NYS Dormitory Authority, NYS Thruway Authority, New York Power Authority, and the Long Island Power Authority not voted on within 60 days by the Senate shall be automatically confirmed.

Sections 2, 3, and 4 amend PAL §354(6), §1004, and §1678(5) respectively to remove references to §2852.

Section 5 states that the bill takes effect immediately.

#### **STATEMENT OF SUPPORT**

Reinvent Albany supports this legislation because we believe it will clarify the role of the Senate in advising and consenting on certain gubernatorial appointments.

In current state law, if the Governor appoints a CEO to the NYS Dormitory Authority, NYS Thruway Authority, New York Power Authority, or the Long Island Power Authority, and the Senate does not vote on the appointment within 60 days, the CEO is automatically confirmed.

The process of automatic confirmation differs from the law for other authorities, which provides time limits for how long appointments may serve without confirmation (an

acting MTA Chairman, for example, may only serve for six months), or simply require confirmation (Empire State Development). Automatic confirmation end-runs the Senate's important constitutional role in ensuring that those serving state government are qualified for their positions.

Removing this loophole will ensure conformity in appointments and right an imbalance in state government. We urge the Legislature to pass the bill, and the Governor to sign it.