



MEMO OF SUPPORT

S5551 (Cleare)

Requires ESD to post video recordings of certain public hearings

April 4, 2025

TITLE OF BILL

An act to amend the New York state urban development corporation act, in relation to recording and posting of certain public hearings.

STATEMENT OF SUPPORT

Reinvent Albany strongly supports this bill because it will make New York's largest economic development authority more transparent.

Though Empire State Development (ESD) oversees projects totaling billions of dollars every single year, New Yorkers struggle to get information on how this money is spent or how spending decisions are even made. In our [Open ESD report](#), we detailed ESD's lack of transparency when it comes to basic information about its programs, subsidiaries, and tax credits. Hardly any of the project pages on ESD's website provide more than a "public hearing notice." When hearings come and go, it's nearly impossible to find out what happened without having been at the meeting oneself.

This bill will require ESD to post a recording of each hearing within 48 hours. We urge the Legislature to pass the bill, and the Governor to sign it.

SUMMARY OF PROVISIONS

Sections 1 through 4 amend the Urban Development Corporation Law Chapter 174 §1 to require ESD to post recordings of public hearings on its website within 48 hours of hearings for sale or lease of land use development projects (§6)(1)(c)), sale or lease of industrial projects (§8(2)), acquisition of real property from a municipality or an urban renewal agency (§14(2)), acquisition of real property from New York City (§16(2)(b)(3)). Section 5 provides that the bill takes effect immediately.