



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Anna M. Kaplan

On 10 Year Anniversary of Sandy, Senator Kaplan Calls for Utility Reforms to be Signed Into Law

ANNA M. KAPLAN October 30, 2022

| ISSUE: **STORM RECOVERY, SUPERSTORM SANDY, TROPICAL STORM ISAIAS, EMERGENCY STORM RESPONSE, STORM RESILIENCY**



Long Island has seen numerous mass utility outage events in the last 10 years, exposing serious issues with how local utilities prioritize their restoration efforts in the aftermath of a disaster

Senator Kaplan's legislation would ensure that first responders and those with serious medical conditions receive priority service

CARLE PLACE, NY (OCTOBER 30, 2022) - As Long Island observes the Tenth Anniversary of the landfall of Superstorm Sandy that devastated the region and left the vast majority of Long Island residents in the dark for a prolonged period of time, **Senator Anna M. Kaplan** (D-Port Washington) is calling on Governor Kathy Hochul to sign her utility reform bills into law without delay. The bills would ensure that first responders and those with serious medical conditions receive priority service restoration during a mass outage event. The bills were initially introduced following the disastrous response by utilities to Tropical Storm Isaias that left people with special needs and first responders in the dark for unacceptably long periods of time, putting the health and safety of vulnerable residents and the broader community at serious risk.

Senator Anna M. Kaplan said "it just makes sense that first responders and people with serious medical conditions should be first in line to get their power turned back on following a big storm, but in the wake of Sandy and Isaias, we saw far too many vulnerable Long Islanders, firehouses, and police stations that were left in the dark for far too long. We need to look out for our first responders and our most vulnerable neighbors during emergencies, and my legislation will ensure that they're given priority and treated with care. These are common-sense reforms that we need signed into law without delay."

Setting Standards for Medical Priority Situations: [S.931A](#) creates a definition for medical needs that encompasses a realistic list of situations that demand priority restoration in an emergency to prevent a rapid and significant decline in a person's health and well-being. Currently there is no standard to recognize that many medical conditions can be significantly triggered or exacerbated by a continued loss of power and that such conditions will have a significant adverse impact on that individual.

Prioritizing Critical Emergency Services and First Responders: [S.926C](#) seeks to ensure that our police, fire, and ambulance services are prioritized for power restoration within 24 hours. If

power cannot be restored in that period, the utility company must provide alternate power sources to ensure these critical facilities can function.

The bills passed the State Senate and Assembly in Spring 2022 and would take effect immediately if signed into law by Governor Hochul.

RELATED LEGISLATION

2021-S931A

emergency storm response, Storm Recovery, storm resiliency, PSEG Long Island; Consumer Protection; Disaster Preparedness; Tropical Storm Isaias; Power Outages

- Introduced

- ◦ In Committee Assembly
 - In Committee Senate

- ◦ On Floor Calendar Assembly
 - On Floor Calendar Senate

- ◦ Passed Assembly

- Passed Senate
- Delivered to Governor
- Signed By Governor
-

Defines medical needs for essential electricity and requires certain service providers to have outreach plans for customers with essential electricity medical needs

January 05, 2021

Senate Floor Calendar

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Do you support this bill?

2021-S926C

- Introduced
- ◦ In Committee Assembly
 - In Committee Senate
- ◦ On Floor Calendar Assembly
 - On Floor Calendar Senate
- ◦ Passed Assembly

- Passed Senate

- Delivered to Governor

- Signed By Governor

-

Requires electric corporations to prioritize restoring services to police departments, fire departments, and ambulance services, when such services are interrupted

January 05, 2021

Senate Floor Calendar

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Do you support this bill?