

# STATE OF NEW YORK

431--A

2021-2022 Regular Sessions

## IN ASSEMBLY

(Prefiled)

January 6, 2021

Introduced by M. of A. ROZIC, SEAWRIGHT, EPSTEIN, OTIS, SIMON, JACOBSON  
-- Multi-Sponsored by -- M. of A. ENGLEBRIGHT -- read once and  
referred to the Committee on Consumer Affairs and Protection --  
committee discharged, bill amended, ordered reprinted as amended and  
recommitted to said committee

AN ACT to amend the general business law, in relation to establishing  
restrictions on the sale of over-the-counter diet pills and dietary  
supplements for weight loss or muscle building and increasing civil  
penalties for the sale or promotional distribution of dietary supple-  
ments containing ephedra

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assem-  
bly, do enact as follows:

1 Section 1. The general business law is amended by adding a new section  
2 391-oo to read as follows:

3 § 391-oo. Sale of over-the-counter diet pills and dietary supplements  
4 for weight loss or muscle building. 1. No person, firm, corporation,  
5 partnership, association, limited liability company, or other entity  
6 shall sell or offer to sell or give away, as either a retail or whole-  
7 sale promotion, an over-the-counter diet pill or dietary supplement for  
8 weight loss or muscle building within New York state to any person under  
9 eighteen years of age.

10 2. For purposes of this section the following terms shall have the  
11 following meanings:

12 (a) "dietary supplements for weight loss or muscle building" means a  
13 class of dietary supplement as defined in section three hundred ninety-  
14 one-o of this article sold for or used with the intent to achieve weight  
15 loss or build muscle;

16 (b) "over-the-counter diet pills" means a class of drugs, sold for or  
17 used with the intent to achieve weight loss or build muscle that are  
18 lawfully sold, transferred, or furnished over-the-counter with or with-

EXPLANATION--Matter in italics (underscored) is new; matter in brackets  
[-] is old law to be omitted.

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1 out a prescription pursuant to the federal food, drug, and cosmetic act,  
2 21 U.S.C. section 301 et. seq., or regulations adopted thereunder; and

3 (c) "dietary supplements for weight loss or muscle building" and  
4 "over-the-counter diet pills" may include, but are not limited to, ther-  
5 mogens, which are substances that produce heat in the body and promote  
6 more calorie burning, lipotropics, which are compounds that help break  
7 down fat during body metabolism, hormones, including hormone modulators  
8 and hormone mimetics, appetite suppressants, or ingredients deemed adul-  
9 terated under 21 U.S.C.A § 342.

10 3. Whenever there shall be a violation of this section, an application  
11 may be made by the attorney general in the name of the people of the  
12 state of New York, to a court or justice having jurisdiction by a  
13 special proceeding to issue an injunction, and upon notice to the  
14 defendant of not less than five days, to enjoin and restrain the contin-  
15 uance of such violation; and if it shall appear to the satisfaction of  
16 the court or justice that the defendant has, in fact, violated this  
17 section, an injunction may be issued by the court or justice, enjoining  
18 and restraining any further violations, without requiring proof that any  
19 person has, in fact, been injured or damaged thereby. In any such  
20 proceeding, the court may make allowances to the attorney general as  
21 provided in paragraph six of subdivision (a) of section eighty-three  
22 hundred three of the civil practice law and rules, and direct restitu-  
23 tion. Whenever the court shall determine that a violation of this  
24 section has occurred, the court may impose a civil penalty of not more  
25 than two thousand dollars.

26 § 2. Subdivision 4 of section 391-o of the general business law, as  
27 added by chapter 385 of the laws of 2003, is amended to read as follows:

28 4. Any person, firm, corporation, partnership, association, limited  
29 liability company, or other entity that violates the provisions of this  
30 section by selling, offering to sell, or giving away as either a retail  
31 or wholesale promotion, a dietary supplement containing any quantity of  
32 ephedrine alkaloids shall be subject to a civil penalty of not more than  
33 [~~five hundred~~] two thousand dollars per violation, recoverable in an  
34 action by any enforcement authority designated by any municipality or  
35 political subdivision.

36 § 3. The department of health, in consultation with other state and  
37 federal agencies, as appropriate, and relevant stakeholders including,  
38 but not limited to, the eating disorders community, shall determine what  
39 products constitute over-the-counter diet pills, or dietary supplements  
40 for weight loss or muscle building shall have limited accessibility.

41 § 4. This act shall take effect on the one hundred eightieth day after  
42 it shall have become a law.