

STATE OF NEW YORK

4824

2023-2024 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

February 23, 2023

Introduced by M. of A. RAMOS -- read once and referred to the Committee on Economic Development

AN ACT to amend the executive law, in relation to providing for the regulation of the sale, use and storage of nitric acid; and to amend the penal law, in relation to disseminating material on the manufacture of an explosive

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

1 Section 1. Legislative intent. The legislature hereby finds that while
2 there are important uses for substances like nitric acid, it is impor-
3 tant that we safeguard these substances in order to prevent them from
4 being used to harm both people and property. Nitric acid can be used to
5 cause harmful explosions and its use carries the ability, if fallen in
6 the wrong hands, of resulting in massive destruction.

7 Currently, the sale of nitric acid is not regulated on an appropriate
8 level. Retailers are not required to check the identification of the
9 buyers when selling them nitric acid. They are also not required to
10 maintain records of the sale. This act would require that retailers
11 check the identification of buyers purchasing nitric acid and record
12 their name and address.

13 In addition, there are no standard rules or requirements maintaining
14 the security of nitric acid in academia. While this act does not hinder
15 the important academic work that surrounds the use of nitric acid in
16 colleges, universities and even high schools, it would provide a set
17 standard ensuring we do our part in not allowing our academic insti-
18 tutions to become tools for potential terrorists.

19 Finally, while the advent of the internet has provided us countless
20 benefits, it has also increased the threat we face from people looking
21 to harm Americans, using information widely available on the web. This
22 act bans websites that provide guides on taking nitric acid and turning
23 it into explosives.

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

LBD08275-01-3

1 § 2. The executive law is amended by adding a new section 719 to read
2 as follows:

3 § 719. Nitric acid security. 1. (a) For the purposes of this section,
4 "nitric acid" shall include nitric acid or any preparation containing
5 free or chemically unneutralized nitric acid (HN03) in a concentration
6 of five per centum or more.

7 (b) The provisions of this section shall apply to the retail sale,
8 storage and use of nitric acid, notwithstanding any provision of section
9 one hundred forty-six-f or article fourteen-A of the agriculture and
10 markets law to the contrary.

11 2. (a) Every person who sells any quantity of nitric acid at retail
12 shall record the date of sale and quantity of nitric acid sold to a
13 purchaser, along with the valid state or federal driver license number,
14 or other picture identification card number approved for purchaser iden-
15 tification by the director of the state office of homeland security, as
16 well as the name, current physical address and telephone number of such
17 purchaser of nitric acid.

18 (b) Such information and any additional information, as shall be
19 determined by the director of the state office of homeland security,
20 shall be maintained by the retail seller of nitric acid at the place of
21 sale of the nitric acid for a period of not less than three years in a
22 form or using a format developed by the director.

23 (c) Every person who sells nitric acid at retail shall, in compliance
24 with any federal and state requirements regarding the dissemination of
25 such information, provide the director, or any officer or employee of
26 the state office of homeland security access to such records.

27 3. Nitric acid, while upon the premises of a person engaged in the
28 retail sale thereof, shall be secured to provide reasonable protection
29 against vandalism, theft or other unauthorized access. Reasonable
30 protection may include, but not be limited to, ensuring that storage
31 facilities are locked when unattended, and inspected daily for signs of
32 attempted entry, vandalism and structural integrity. The director of the
33 state office of homeland security may require such security measures for
34 the storage of nitric acid as he or she shall deem necessary.

35 4. (a) Every elementary and secondary school, and every institution of
36 higher education, as defined in subdivision eight of section two of the
37 education law, which has nitric acid upon its premises or in its
38 possession, shall secure such acid when it is not in use for academic
39 purposes to prevent the vandalism, theft or other unauthorized use ther-
40 eof. In addition, all academic uses of nitric acid shall be monitored to
41 prevent theft and unauthorized uses thereof. The securing of nitric
42 acid, when not in use, shall include, but not be limited to, the place-
43 ment of all nitric acid in a storage container which is locked and
44 accessible by means of a key or special combination maintained solely by
45 the employee responsible for such storage container.

46 (b) In the event any quantity of nitric acid is to be taken from the
47 premises of any such school or institution, the employee responsible for
48 the storage of such acid shall record the name of the person taking the
49 acid. Such records and any additional information, as shall be deter-
50 mined by the director of the state office of homeland security, shall be
51 maintained for a period of not less than three years in a form or using
52 a format developed by the director. Furthermore, these records shall be
53 made available to the director, and any officer or employee of the state
54 office of homeland security.

1 5. The director of the state office of homeland security may, in his
2 or her discretion, promulgate any rules and regulations necessary to
3 implement the provisions of this section.

4 6. Any violation of the provisions of this section shall constitute a
5 class A misdemeanor.

6 § 3. The penal law is amended by adding a new section 270.45 to read
7 as follows:

8 § 270.45 Disseminating material on the manufacture of an explosive.

9 A person is guilty of disseminating material on the manufacture of an
10 explosive when knowing the character and content of the communication
11 which, in whole or part, describes or explains the process or means of
12 constructing or manufacturing an explosive using nitric acid, he or she
13 intentionally uses any computer communication system allowing input,
14 output, examination or transfer of computer data or computer programs
15 from one computer to another.

16 Disseminating material on the manufacture of an explosive is a class D
17 felony.

18 § 4. This act shall take effect on the first of September next
19 succeeding the date on which it shall have become a law. Effective imme-
20 diately, the director of the state office of homeland security is
21 authorized to promulgate any rules and regulations necessary to imple-
22 ment the provisions of section two of this act on its effective date on
23 or before such date.