

STATE OF NEW YORK

5196--A

Cal. No. 892

2025-2026 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

February 19, 2025

Introduced by Sens. HOYLMAN-SIGAL, BROUK, COMRIE, FAHY, FERNANDEZ, JACKSON, KRUEGER, MARTINEZ, MAYER, MYRIE, PALUMBO, WEBB, WEBER -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Health -- reported favorably from said committee, ordered to first and second report, ordered to a third reading, amended and ordered reprinted, retaining its place in the order of third reading

AN ACT to amend the public health law and the tax law, in relation to prohibiting the storage of flavored vapor products near where vapor or tobacco products are sold at retail or wholesale

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

1 Section 1. Subdivisions 1, 17 and 18 of section 1399-aa of the public
2 health law, subdivision 1 as amended by chapter 13 of the laws of 2003,
3 and subdivisions 17 and 18 as added by section 2 of part EE of chapter
4 56 of the laws of 2020, are amended to read as follows:

5 1. "Enforcement officer" means the enforcement officer designated
6 pursuant to article thirteen-E of this chapter to enforce such article
7 and hold hearings pursuant thereto; provided that in a city with a popu-
8 lation of more than one million it shall also mean an officer or employ-
9 ee or any agency of such city that is authorized to enforce any local
10 law of such city related to the regulation of the sale of cigarettes,
11 tobacco products, or vapor products to minors.

12 17. "Vapor products" means any noncombustible liquid or gel, regard-
13 less of the presence of nicotine therein, that is manufactured into a
14 finished product for use in an electronic [~~cigarette, including any~~]
15 device that delivers vapor which is inhaled, including any refill,
16 cartridge, device, or component thereof, that contains or is intended
17 to be used with such noncombustible liquid or gel. "Vapor product" shall
18 not include any device, or any component thereof, that does not contain
19 such noncombustible liquid or gel, or any product approved by the United
20 States food and drug administration as a drug or medical device, as

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

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1 those terms are defined in the federal food, drug, and cosmetic act, or
2 manufactured and dispensed pursuant to [~~title five-A~~] article three,
3 four, or five of [~~article thirty-three of this chapter~~] the cannabis
4 law.

5 18. "Vapor products dealer" means a person licensed by the commission-
6 er of taxation and finance to sell vapor products [~~in this state~~], or a
7 person or business required to obtain such license.

8 § 2. Subdivision 2 and paragraph (f) of subdivision 3 of section
9 1399-ee of the public health law, as amended by section 6 of part EE
10 of chapter 56 of the laws of 2020, are amended to read as follows:

11 2. If the enforcement officer determines after a hearing that a
12 violation of this article has occurred, [~~he or she~~] or that a state or
13 local health official was denied access to the retail premises of a
14 registered vapor products dealer including all product display and
15 storage areas of such retail premises, for the purpose of evaluating
16 compliance with this article, they shall impose a civil penalty of a
17 minimum of three hundred dollars, but not to exceed one thousand five
18 hundred dollars for a first violation, and a minimum of one thousand
19 dollars, but not to exceed two thousand five hundred dollars for each
20 subsequent violation, unless a different penalty is otherwise provided
21 in this article. The enforcement officer shall advise the retail dealer
22 that upon the accumulation of three or more points pursuant to this
23 section the department of taxation and finance shall suspend the deal-
24 er's registration. If the enforcement officer determines after a hearing
25 that a retail dealer was selling tobacco or vapor products while their
26 registration was suspended or permanently revoked pursuant to subdivi-
27 sion three or four of this section, [~~he or she~~] they shall impose a
28 civil penalty of twenty-five hundred dollars.

29 (f) Surcharge. A [~~two~~] four hundred [~~fifty~~] dollar surcharge to be
30 assessed for every violation will be made available to enforcement offi-
31 cers and shall be used solely for compliance checks to be conducted to
32 determine compliance with this section.

33 § 3. Subdivision 1 of section 1399-ff of the public health law, as
34 amended by chapter 100 of the laws of 2019, is amended to read as
35 follows:

36 1. Where a civil penalty for a particular incident has not been
37 imposed or an enforcement action regarding an alleged violation for a
38 particular incident is not pending under section thirteen hundred nine-
39 ty-nine-ee of this article, a parent or guardian of a person under twen-
40 ty-one years of age to whom tobacco products, herbal cigarettes or
41 [~~electronic cigarettes~~] vapor products are sold or distributed in
42 violation of this article may submit a complaint to an enforcement offi-
43 cer setting forth the name and address of the alleged violator, the date
44 of the alleged violation, the name and address of the complainant and
45 the person under twenty-one years of age, and a brief statement describ-
46 ing the alleged violation. The enforcement officer shall notify the
47 alleged violator by certified or registered mail, return receipt
48 requested, that a complaint has been submitted, and shall set a date, at
49 least fifteen days after the mailing of such notice, for a hearing on
50 the complaint. Such notice shall contain the information submitted by
51 the complainant.

52 § 4. Subdivision 1 of section 1399-gg of the public health law, as
53 amended by chapter 513 of the laws of 2004, is amended to read as
54 follows:

55 1. All tobacco cigarettes or vapor products sold or offered for sale
56 by a retail dealer shall be sold or offered for sale in the package,

1 box, carton or other container provided by the manufacturer, importer,
2 or packager which bears all health warnings required by applicable law.

3 § 5. The opening paragraph and subdivisions 2 and 3 of section 1399-hh
4 of the public health law, as amended by section 8 of part EE of chapter
5 56 of the laws of 2020, are amended to read as follows:

6 The commissioner shall develop, plan and implement a comprehensive
7 program to reduce the prevalence of tobacco [~~use~~] and vapor product[~~7~~
8 ~~intended or reasonably expected to be used with or for the consumption~~
9 ~~of nicotine,~~] use, particularly among persons less than twenty-one years
10 of age. This program shall include, but not be limited to, support for
11 enforcement of this article.

12 2. The commissioner shall distribute such monies as are made available
13 for such purpose to enforcement officers and, in so doing, consider the
14 number of licensed vapor products dealers or sellers and retail
15 locations registered to sell tobacco products within the jurisdiction of
16 the enforcement officer and the level of proposed activities. For the
17 purposes of this section, "seller" means a person, sole proprietorship,
18 corporation, limited liability company, partnership or other enterprise
19 that distributes, sells or offers to sell, at retail, or exchanges or
20 offers to exchange for any form of consideration, cigarettes, tobacco
21 products, or vapor products. This definition is without regard to the
22 quantity of cigarettes, tobacco products, or vapor products distributed,
23 sold, offered for sale, exchanged, or offered for exchange.

24 3. Monies made available to enforcement officers pursuant to this
25 section shall only be used for local tobacco and vapor product[~~7~~
26 ~~intended or reasonably expected to be used with or for the consumption~~
27 ~~of nicotine,~~] enforcement activities approved by the commissioner.

28 § 6. Subdivision 2 of section 1399-ii of the public health law, as
29 amended by section 12 of part EE of chapter 56 of the laws of 2020, is
30 amended to read as follows:

31 2. The department shall support tobacco and vapor product use
32 prevention and control activities including, but not limited to:

33 (a) Community programs to prevent and reduce tobacco use through local
34 involvement and partnerships;

35 (b) School-based programs to prevent and reduce tobacco use and use of
36 vapor products;

37 (c) Marketing and advertising to discourage tobacco[~~7~~] and vapor prod-
38 uct [~~and liquid nicotine~~] use, especially among consumers histor-
39 ically targeted by tobacco and vapor product advertising and manufactur-
40 ers;

41 (d) Nicotine cessation programs for youth and adults;

42 (e) Special projects to reduce the disparities in smoking prevalence
43 among various populations;

44 (f) Restriction of youth access to tobacco products and vapor
45 products;

46 (g) Surveillance of smoking and vaping rates; and

47 (h) Any other activities determined by the commissioner to be neces-
48 sary to implement the provisions of this section.

49 Such programs shall be selected by the commissioner through an appli-
50 cation process which takes into account whether a program utilizes meth-
51 ods recognized as effective in reducing [~~nicotine~~] tobacco or vapor
52 product use. Eligible applicants may include, but not be limited to, a
53 health care provider, schools, a college or university, a local public
54 health department, a public health organization, a health care provider
55 organization, association or society, municipal corporation, or a
56 professional education organization.

1 § 7. Section 1399-ii-1 of the public health law, as added by section
2 11 of part EE of chapter 56 of the laws of 2020, is amended to read as
3 follows:

4 § 1399-ii-1. [~~Electronic cigarette and vaping~~] Vapor product
5 prevention, awareness and control program. The commissioner shall, in
6 consultation and collaboration with the commissioner of education,
7 establish and develop [~~an electronic cigarette and vaping~~] a vapor prod-
8 uct prevention, control and awareness program within the department.
9 Such program shall be designed to educate students, parents and school
10 personnel about the health risks associated with vapor product use and
11 control measures to reduce the prevalence of vaping, particularly among
12 persons less than twenty-one years of age. Such program shall include,
13 but not be limited to, the creation of age-appropriate instructional
14 tools and materials that may be used by all schools, and marketing and
15 advertising materials to discourage [~~electronic cigarette~~] vapor product
16 use.

17 § 8. Subdivision 6 of section 1399-11 of the public health law, as
18 amended by section 3 of part EE of chapter 56 of the laws of 2020, is
19 amended to read as follows:

20 6. The attorney general may bring an action to recover the civil
21 penalties provided by subdivision five of this section and for such
22 other relief as may be deemed necessary. In addition, the corporation
23 counsel of any political subdivision that imposes a tax on cigarettes or
24 vapor products [~~intended or reasonably expected to used with or for the~~
25 ~~consumption of nicotine~~] may bring an action to recover the civil penal-
26 ties provided by subdivision five of this section and for such other
27 relief as may be deemed necessary with respect to any cigarettes or
28 vapor products [~~intended or reasonably expected to be used with or for~~
29 ~~the consumption of nicotine~~] shipped, caused to be shipped or trans-
30 ported in violation of this section to any person located within such
31 political subdivision. All civil penalties obtained in any such action
32 shall be retained by the state or political subdivision bringing such
33 action[, ~~provided that no person shall be required to pay civil penal-~~
34 ~~ties to both the state and a political subdivision with respect to the~~
35 ~~same violation of this section~~].

36 § 9. Section 1399-mm-1 of the public health law, as added by section 1
37 of part EE of chapter 56 of the laws of 2020, is amended to read as
38 follows:

39 § 1399-mm-1. Sale of flavored products prohibited. 1. For the purposes
40 of this section "flavored" shall mean any vapor product [~~intended or~~
41 ~~reasonably expected to be used with or for the consumption of nicotine,~~
42 with a [~~distinguishable~~] taste [~~or~~], aroma, or cooling sensation,
43 distinguishable by an ordinary customer, other than the taste or aroma
44 of tobacco, imparted either prior to or during consumption of such prod-
45 uct or a component part thereof, including but not limited to tastes or
46 aromas relating to any fruit, chocolate, vanilla, honey, candy, cocoa,
47 dessert, alcoholic beverage, mint, wintergreen, menthol, herb or spice,
48 or any concept flavor that imparts a taste or aroma that is distinguish-
49 able from tobacco flavor but may not relate to any particular known
50 flavor. A vapor product [~~intended or reasonably expected to be used with~~
51 ~~or for the consumption of nicotine,~~] shall be presumed to be flavored if
52 a product's retailer, manufacturer, or a manufacturer's agent or employ-
53 ee has made a statement or claim, or other action, directed to consumers
54 or the public, whether expressed or implied, that such product or device
55 has a [~~distinguishable~~] taste [~~or~~], aroma, or cooling sensation, other
56 than the taste [~~or~~], aroma, or sensation of tobacco.

1 2. No vapor products dealer, seller or any agent or employee of a
2 vapor products dealer or seller, shall sell or offer for sale [~~at retail~~
3 ~~in the state~~], or exchange or offer for exchange, for any form of
4 consideration, any flavored vapor product [~~intended or reasonably~~
5 ~~expected to be used with or for the consumption of nicotine~~] at retail.
6 For the purposes of this section, seller means a person, sole proprie-
7 torship, corporation, limited liability company, partnership or other
8 enterprise that sells or offers to sell, at retail, or exchanges or
9 offers to exchange, for any form of consideration, vapor products
10 through retail sales. This definition is without regard to the quantity
11 of vapor products, sold, offered for sale, exchanged, or offered for
12 exchange.

13 3. No vapor products dealer, seller or wholesaler or any agent or
14 employee of a vapor products dealer, seller, or wholesaler acting in the
15 capacity thereof, shall keep in inventory, store, stow, warehouse, proc-
16 ess, package, ship, or distribute flavored vapor products anywhere in,
17 adjacent to, or accessible to a place of business or premises where
18 vapor products are sold, offered for sale, exchanged, or offered for
19 exchange, for any form of consideration, at retail.

20 4. No vapor products wholesaler or any agent or employee of a vapor
21 products wholesaler acting in the capacity thereof, shall sell, process,
22 package, ship or distribute flavored vapor products to a vapor products
23 dealer or seller, or any agent or employee of a vapor products dealer or
24 seller acting in the capacity thereof, located in the state. Nothing in
25 this section shall prevent a vapor products wholesaler or any agent or
26 employee of a vapor products wholesaler acting in the capacity thereof,
27 from selling, processing, packaging, shipping or distributing flavored
28 vapor products to out-of-state retailers.

29 5. Any vapor products dealer or seller, or any agent or employee of a
30 vapor products dealer or seller, who violates the provisions of this
31 section shall be subject to a civil penalty of not more than [~~one~~] three
32 hundred dollars for each individual package of flavored vapor product
33 [~~intended or reasonably expected to be used with or for the consumption~~
34 ~~of nicotine~~] sold or offered for sale, [~~provided, however, that with~~
35 ~~respect to a manufacturer, it shall be an affirmative defense to a find-~~
36 ~~ing of violation pursuant to this section that such sale~~] or [~~offer of~~
37 ~~sale, as applicable, occurred without the knowledge, consent, authori-~~
38 ~~zation, or involvement, direct~~] exchanged or [~~indirect,~~] offered for
39 exchange, for any form of [~~such manufacturer~~] consideration, whether
40 through retail or wholesale, or kept in inventory, stored, stowed, ware-
41 housed, processed, packaged, shipped, or distributed anywhere in, or
42 adjacent to, a place of business where vapor or tobacco products are
43 sold, offered for sale, exchanged, or offered for exchange, for any form
44 of consideration, at retail. Violations of the provisions of this
45 section shall be enforced pursuant to [~~section~~] sections thirteen
46 hundred ninety-nine-ee and thirteen hundred ninety-nine-ff of this arti-
47 cle[~~, except~~]; provided, however, that [~~any~~] violations of the
48 provisions of this section may also be enforced by the commissioner;
49 provided, further, however, that any monies obtained in any such
50 enforcement action taken by the commissioner shall be made available to
51 support tobacco and vapor product enforcement programs operating pursu-
52 ant to section thirteen hundred ninety-nine-hh of this article. Any
53 person may submit a complaint to an enforcement officer that a violation
54 of this section has occurred.

55 [~~4. The provisions of this section shall not apply to any vapor~~
56 ~~products dealer, or any agent or employee of a vapor products dealer,~~

~~1 who sells or offers for sale, or who possess with intent to sell or
2 offer for sale, any flavored vapor product intended or reasonably
3 expected to be used with or for the consumption of nicotine that the
4 U.S. Food and Drug Administration has authorized to legally market as
5 defined under 21 U.S.C. § 387j and that has received a premarket review
6 approval order under 21 U.S.C. § 387j(e) et seq.]~~

7 6. Nothing in this section shall be construed to penalize the
8 purchase, use, or possession of a tobacco product or vapor product by
9 any person not engaged as a vapor products dealer, retail dealer, tobac-
10 co or vapor seller, or any agent or employee of a vapor products dealer,
11 retail dealer, or tobacco or vapor seller.

12 § 10. Paragraph (e) of section 1183 of the tax law, as added by
13 section 1 of part UU of chapter 59 of the laws of 2019, is amended to
14 read as follows:

15 (e) (1) If a vapor products [dealer] dealer's certificate or registra-
16 tion is suspended, cancelled or revoked and such vapor products dealer
17 sells vapor products through more than one place of business in this
18 state, the vapor products dealer's certificate of registration issued to
19 that place of business, cart, stand, truck or other merchandising
20 device, where such violation occurred, shall be suspended, revoked or
21 cancelled. Provided, however, upon a vapor products dealer's third
22 suspension, cancellation or revocation within a five-year period for any
23 one or more businesses owned or operated by the vapor products dealer,
24 such suspension, cancellation, or revocation of the vapor products deal-
25 er's certificate of registration shall apply to all places of business
26 where [he or she sells] they sell vapor products in this state.

27 (2) If a vapor products dealer does not possess a valid certificate of
28 registration, either because it failed to obtain a registration or its
29 registration is suspended or revoked and the commissioner or their
30 designee, pursuant to their authority under this article, attempts to
31 inspect such premises for a violation of this section and such vapor
32 products dealer, including an agent thereof, is found, after notice and
33 opportunity to be heard, to have refused such inspection, such vapor
34 products dealer shall be subject to a penalty of up to four thousand
35 dollars for a first refusal and up to eight thousand dollars for a
36 second or subsequent refusal within three years of a prior refusal.

37 § 11. Section 1183 of the tax law is amended by adding two new subdi-
38 visions (i) and (j) to read as follows:

39 (i) At the time of delivering vapor products to any person, each vapor
40 products dealer shall make a true duplicate invoice showing the date of
41 delivery, the number of packages and number of vapor products contained
42 therein, in each shipment of vapor products delivered, and the items and
43 quantity and wholesale price of each item in each shipment of vapor
44 products delivered, and the name of the purchaser to whom delivery is
45 made, and shall retain such duplicate invoices for a period of three
46 years subject to the use and inspection of the commissioner. Each vapor
47 products dealer shall procure and retain invoices showing the number of
48 packages and number of vapor products contained therein, in each ship-
49 ment of vapor products received by them, and the items and quantity and
50 wholesale price of each item in each shipment of vapor products received
51 by them, the date thereof, and the name of the shipper, and shall retain
52 such invoices for a period of three years subject to the use and
53 inspection of the commissioner. The commissioner by regulation may
54 provide that whenever vapor products are shipped into the state, the
55 railroad company, express company, trucking company or other public
56 carrier transporting any shipment thereof shall file with the commis-

1 sioner a copy of the freight bill within ten days after the delivery in
2 the state of each shipment. All vapor products dealers shall maintain
3 and keep for a period of three years such other records of vapor
4 products received, sold or delivered within the state, as may be
5 required by the commissioner. The commissioner is hereby authorized to
6 examine the books, papers, invoices and other records of any person in
7 possession, control or occupancy of any premises where vapor products
8 are placed, stored, sold or offered for sale, and the equipment of any
9 such person pertaining to the sale and delivery of vapor products taxa-
10 ble under this article, as well as the stock of vapor products in any
11 such premises or vehicle. To verify the accuracy of the tax imposed and
12 assessed by this article, each such person is hereby directed and
13 required to give to the commissioner or such commissioner's duly author-
14 ized representatives, the means, facilities and opportunity for such
15 examinations as are herein provided for and required.

16 (j) If a vapor products dealer, including an agent thereof, refuses to
17 comply with the requirements of this section, its registration may be
18 revoked (i) for a period of one year, (ii) for a second such violation
19 within a period of five years, for up to three years, or (iii) for a
20 third or subsequent violation within a period of seven years, for a
21 period up to ten years. A vapor products dealer's registration shall be
22 considered to be revoked pursuant to this subdivision immediately upon
23 such dealer's receipt of written notice of revocation from the commis-
24 sioner.

25 § 12. Severability. If any clause, sentence, paragraph, subdivision,
26 section or part of this act shall be adjudged by any court of competent
27 jurisdiction to be invalid, such judgment shall not affect, impair, or
28 invalidate the remainder thereof, but shall be confined in its operation
29 to the clause, sentence, paragraph, subdivision, section or part thereof
30 directly involved in the controversy in which such judgment shall have
31 been rendered. It is hereby declared to have been the intent of the
32 legislature that this act would have been enacted even if such invalid
33 provisions had not been included herein.

34 § 13. This act shall take effect on the ninetieth day after it shall
35 have become a law.