

Inter-County Association of Western New York

Representing the Counties of Allegany, Cattaraugus, Cayuga, Chautauqua, Chemung, Erie, Genesee, Livingston, Monroe, Niagara, Ontario, Orleans, Schuyler, Seneca, Steuben, Tompkins, Wayne, Wyoming, and Yates.

RESOLUTION NO. 2023-14-IC

MEMORIALIZING THE GOVERNOR AND NEW YORK STATE LEGISLATURE TO SUPPORT BILL NO. S2177/A4220 WHICH WOULD AMEND THE PENAL LAW AND CANNABIS LAW IN RELATION TO INCLUDING CERTAIN ACTS AND SUBSEQUENT PENALTIES IN THE CRIMINAL SALE OF CANNABIS

Sponsored By: Steuben County

Moved By: Brenda Scotchmer (Steuben)

Seconded By: Carol Ferratella (Steuben)

WHEREAS, on March 31, 2021, New York State made it legal for adults 21 and older to possess up to three ounces of cannabis and up to 24 grams of concentrated cannabis for personal use; and

WHEREAS, under the law, the Office of Cannabis Management (OCM) is responsible for licensing cultivators, processors, distributors, and dispensaries to grow, manufacture and sell adult-use, medical cannabis and certain hemp products; and

WHEREAS, almost two years later, the OCM is still in the process of developing regulations concerning this industry which has led to the failure of legal dispensaries being able to provide cannabis products to the general public; and

WHEREAS, due to this failure, unscrupulous individuals have established stores across New York State that sell stickers and “gift” its customers with marijuana, by operating through a loophole in the Cannabis Law that provides no criminal penalties for such action; and

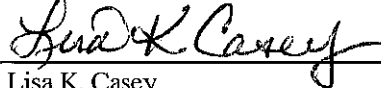
WHEREAS, the cannabis products being “gifted” are not regulated, risking the safety of consumers, communities and neighborhoods; and

WHEREAS, Senator Thomas O’Mara and Assemblyman Philip Palmesano have introduced legislation, through Bill No. S2177 and A4220, that would outlaw sticker stores and punish those who violate the law. Now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, the Inter-County Association of Western New York strongly urges the Governor and New York State Legislature to pass Bills No. S2177/A4220 which would amend the Penal Law and Cannabis Law and make any person, while employed or operating a commercial establishment, store, club or facility, who knowingly and unlawfully sells, transfers, gifts or trades cannabis without an appropriate license or authority under the Cannabis Law, guilty of criminal sale of cannabis in the third degree; and be it further

RESOLVED, certified copies of this resolution shall be electronically forwarded to the Honorable Kathy Hochul, New York State Governor, Honorable Andrea Stewart-Cousins, NYS Senate Majority Leader, Honorable Robert G. Ort, NYS Senate Minority Leader, Honorable Carl E. Heastie, Speaker, New York State Assembly, Honorable Crystal D. Peoples-Stokes, NYS Assembly Majority Leader, Honorable William A. Barclay, NYS Assembly Minority Leader, Honorable Thomas M. O’Mara, New York State Senator, Honorable Philip A. Palmesano, New York State Assemblyman, Honorable Joseph M. Giglio, New York State Assemblyman, Honorable Marjorie Byrnes, New York State Assemblywoman, Gary Maha, President, Inter-County Association of Western New York, and Stephen Acquario, Executive Director, NYSAC.

This is to Certify that I, the undersigned, Secretary of the Inter-County Association of Western New York, have compared the foregoing copy of resolution with the original resolution now on file in this office and which was duly adopted by the Association at a session held on the 21st day of April 2023 and that the same is a true copy of said original and of the whole thereof. In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto subscribed my name and affixed the official seal of the Inter-County Association of Western New York dated April 21, 2023.



Lisa K. Casey
Inter-County Association of Western New York



Sponsored by: Steuben County, Moved by: Brenda Scotchmer (Steuben), Seconded by: Carol Ferratella (Steuben)