

New York City Council

Memorandum in Support of Legislation

This memorandum is authored by the sponsor and explains the need for the legislation referenced below, in accordance with Rule 6.00(d) of the Rules of the Council.

Introduction Number:

Int. No.

Prime Sponsors:

Council Member Harvey Epstein

Bill Title:

A Local Law in relation to amending the administrative code of the city of New York, in relation to refusing to renew, suspending, or revoking a license of a tobacco retail dealer that has violated certain authorization requirements of the cannabis law

Submitted by:

Council Member Harvey Epstein

Justification:

According to the 2025 report by the New York State Cannabis Control Board, last year alone, 3,787 pounds of unlicensed product were seized, amounting to \$20.3 million worth of product. A portion of these unlicensed sales is occurring within existing retail establishments that sell tobacco products. Unlicensed cannabis sales are a threat to consumers, the legal market, and our entire community. Unlicensed shops also evade safety requirements and taxes.

This bill would allow the Commissioner of Consumer and Worker Protection to refuse to renew, suspend, or revoke a tobacco retailer dealer license upon a finding that the holder of such license violated subdivision 1 of section 125 of the Cannabis Law through the distribution for sale, selling at wholesale or retail, or delivering to consumers of any cannabis, cannabis product, medical cannabis, or cannabinoid hemp or hemp extract product, without the appropriate registration, license, or permit issued by New York State. This bill would also require the Commissioner of Consumer and Worker Protection to conduct an education and outreach campaign to inform affected licensees of the new grounds added by this local law for refusal to renew, suspension, or revocation of a license.