



Legislation Text

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**File #:** Res 0708-2015, **Version:** \*

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Res. No. 708

Resolution calling on the State Legislature to pass and the Governor to sign A.5956-A/S.4327, legislation that would allow pet dogs in outdoor seating areas of food service establishments in certain specified circumstances

By Council Members Lander, Rodriguez, Chin, Menchaca and Mendez

Whereas, The New York State Sanitary Code does not currently permit live animals in any area of a food service establishment, with the exception of patrol dogs accompanying security police officers or service animals for patrons with disabilities; and

Whereas, For nearly 25 years, research has shown that pets provide certain health benefits such as lower blood pressure, less anxiety and increased immunity; and

Whereas, Additionally, dogs can help start conversations and ease people out of social isolation or shyness; and

Whereas, Bars and restaurants can distinguish themselves in the heavily competitive hospitality industry in New York by allowing dogs at their establishments; and

Whereas, A.5956-A/S.4327, sponsored by Assemblymember Linda Rosenthal and Senator Kemp Hannon, would allow pet dogs in outdoor seating areas in food service establishments in certain specified circumstances; and

Whereas, A.5956-A/S.4327 would detail health and safety parameters to ensure the safety of patrons at establishments that allows dogs; and

Whereas, For example, the establishment must have a separate outdoor entrance so the dog will not be brought indoors, the outdoor area cannot be used for food preparation, any food or water provided to the dog must be in single use disposable containers and food employees cannot have direct contact with the dog while

on duty; and

Whereas, Additionally, the legislation would require local ordinances to be obeyed, the owner of the establishment to give permission to allow dogs, surfaces with dog excrement or bodily fluid to be cleaned and sanitized, dogs to be on a leash or in a pet carrier and dogs not to be permitted on furniture; and

Whereas, In 2014, California passed similar legislation that allowed dogs in outdoor spaces unless prohibited by local ordinance; and

Whereas, A.5956-A/S.4327 would allow pet dogs to accompany their families in outdoor establishments while protecting the public health of patrons; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Council of the City of New York calls on the State Legislature to pass and the Governor to sign A.5956-A/S.4327, legislation that would allow pet dogs in outdoor seating area of food service establishments in certain specified circumstances.

CP  
LS# 3382  
5/11/15