

SUFFOLK COUNTY LEGISLATURE



Office of Legislator Lynne C. Nowick

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Contact: Susan E. Eckert
Phone: 631-854-3900
Email: susan.eckert@suffolkcountyny.gov

LEGISLATOR NOWICK SEEKS TO STOP SALE OF ENERGY DRINKS TO MINORS; WARN CONSUMERS



(Smithtown, NY)... Suffolk County Legislator Lynne C. Nowick has introduced two resolutions regarding non-regulated energy drinks. IR 2156 is a local law to alert consumers to the health risks associated with energy drinks. Pursuant to the proposed local laws an Energy Drink is defined as “a soft drink that is classified as a dietary supplement not regulated by the Food and Drug Administration and that contains 80 or more milligrams of caffeine per 8 fluid ounces and generally includes a combination of methylxanthines, B vitamins and herbal ingredients and other ingredients which are advertised as being specifically designed to provide or increase energy.” Any place that sells energy drinks will be required to post a warning sign that states:

WARNING SIGN

“Energy drinks may contain large quantities of caffeine and other ingredients, including herbal supplements, amino acids and vitamins. Consumption of these

beverages may aggravate heart conditions, cause headaches, rapid heartbeat, dehydration, disruption of sleep patterns and concentration, and in rare cases, death. These effects may be magnified in children under age of 19. The ingredients of these drinks may interfere with certain prescription medications for attention deficit disorder, asthma, allergies, birth control and other conditions. Mixing energy drinks with alcohol or other drugs may pose additional health risks.”

Failure to comply would be punishable by a fine of up to \$250 with subsequent violations charged up to \$750.

The other proposed local law, IR 2210, would ban the sale of energy drinks to people 19 and younger. Violation of this law would be punishable by a fine of up to \$500 for the first violation, with subsequent violations punishable by a fine of up to \$1,000.

For several years, Legislator Nowick has been following energy drinks and is concerned about the potential harm that they can do to young adults because their brains are not fully developed until they are in their mid- twenties.

Legislator Nowick stated that, “As an elected official, I believe that I must do everything within my power to protect children and young adults from the severe and potentially deadly consequence from consuming non-regulated energy drinks.” A number of legislators have co-sponsored both proposals and there will be a public hearing on the proposed local laws on December 21 at 2:30pm during the public hearing portion of the General Meeting of the Legislature in Hauppauge. In addition to legislative support, numerous addiction treatment and prevention services agencies support these proposals.

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Legislator Lynne C. Nowick represents the 13th Legislative District, which includes Smithtown, Fort Salonga, Kings Park, San Remo, Nissequogue, Head of the Harbor, and St. James, as well as portions of Commack and East Northport. Legislator Nowick chairs the Parks and Recreation Committee and serves on the Economic Development, Higher Education and Energy and the Ways and Means Committees.

Suffolk County Legislator Lynne C. Nowick
59 Landing Avenue, Smithtown, NY 11787
(P) 631-854-3900 (F) 631-854-3903 (W) <http://legis.suffolkcountyny.gov/>