



ASSEMBLY STANDING COMMITTEE ON CODES

ASSEMBLY STANDING COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

ASSEMBLY STANDING COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS

ASSEMBLY STANDING COMMITTEE ON ALCOHOLISM AND DRUG ABUSE

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

SUBJECT: Allowing adult use of marijuana

PURPOSE: To seek input on proposals to legalize, regulate and tax adult use of marijuana in New York

Buffalo

Monday, November 19, 2018

10:30 A.M.

Buffalo City Hall

Common Council Chambers, 13th Floor

65 Niagara Square, Buffalo, New York

ORAL TESTIMONY BY INVITATION ONLY

This hearing is the ***second of four statewide hearings*** related to allowing adult use of marijuana. These hearings are a follow-up to a well-attended Assembly hearing held earlier this year on this issue. In addition, the New York State Department of Health recently released a report on the impacts of a regulated marijuana market in New York, which resulted in the formation of a workgroup by the Executive Branch.

Forty-one years ago, New York decriminalized non-public possession of small amounts of marijuana, making such possession a non-criminal violation punishable only by a fine. In recent years, New York and many other states have legalized the use of marijuana for various medical conditions. Despite decriminalization in New York, a disproportionately high number of Black, Hispanic and Latino people continue to be arrested for marijuana-related offenses - particularly possession in public view - which often results in a criminal record that can prevent gainful employment and full participation in society.

Several states in the U.S., as well as Canada, have authorized or are in the process of authorizing and regulating adult marijuana use. Creating an adult-use system in New York raises important issues about the economic structure and regulation of production, distribution and sale. Criminal justice and public health concerns, social and economic equity demands, ensuring opportunities for smaller scale and minority-and-women-owned businesses, and other relevant regulatory matters all need to be considered.

These hearings will give Assembly Members and all New Yorkers an opportunity to hear from witnesses and learn from the experience of other states that allow adult use. Persons presenting testimony at this hearing are also asked to consider directing their testimony to the potential impact of the enactment and implementation of A.3506-B (Peoples-Stokes), which would authorize, regulate and tax the adult use of marijuana in New York.

Persons invited to present testimony to the Committees at this Buffalo hearing should complete and return the enclosed reply form as soon as possible. It is important that the reply form be fully completed and returned so that persons may be notified in the event of emergency postponement or cancellation.

Oral testimony will be accepted by invitation only and limited to **ten (10)** minutes' duration. In preparing the order of witnesses, the Committees will attempt to accommodate individual requests to speak at particular times in view of special circumstances. These requests should be made on the attached reply form or communicated to Committee staff as early as possible.

Twenty (20) copies of any prepared testimony should be submitted at the hearing registration desk. The Committees would appreciate advance receipt of prepared statements.

In order to meet the needs of those who may have a disability, the Assembly, in accordance with its policy of non-discrimination on the basis of disability, as well as the 1990 Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), has made its facilities and services available to all individuals with disabilities. For individuals with disabilities, accommodations will be provided, upon reasonable request, to afford such individuals access and admission to Assembly facilities and activities.

Joseph R. Lentol
Member of Assembly
Chair
Committee on Codes

Richard N. Gottfried
Member of Assembly
Chair
Committee on Health

Crystal D. Peoples-Stokes
Member of Assembly
Chair
Committee on Governmental
Operations

Linda B. Rosenthal
Member of Assembly
Chair
Committee on Alcoholism and
Drug Abuse

PUBLIC HEARING REPLY FORM

ORAL TESTIMONY BY INVITATION ONLY

Persons invited to present testimony at the public hearing on allowing adult use of marijuana are requested to complete this reply form as soon as possible and mail, email, or fax it to:

**Nathaniel Jenkins
Principal Analyst
Assembly Committee on Codes
Room 513, Capitol
Albany, New York 12248
Email: jenkinsn@nyassembly.gov
Phone: 518-455-4313
Fax: 518-455-7087**

I have been invited to the public hearing concerning adult use of marijuana on November 19, 2018 in Buffalo, and plan to present testimony. My testimony will be limited to ten (10) minutes, and I will answer any questions which may arise. I will provide twenty (20) copies of my prepared testimony.

I plan to attend and observe the public hearing concerning adult use of marijuana in Buffalo on November 19, 2018.

I will address my remarks to the following subjects:

I do not plan to attend the above hearing.

I would like to be added to the Committee mailing list for notices and reports.

I will require assistance and/or handicapped accessibility information. **Please specify the type of assistance required:**

NAME: _____

TITLE: _____

ORGANIZATION: _____

ADDRESS: _____

E-MAIL: _____

TELEPHONE: _____

FAX TELEPHONE: _____