

RESOLUTION NO. 156

REQUESTING THE ALBANY COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH AND THE HEALTH COMMISSIONER TO AMEND THE SANITARY CODE REQUIRING RESTAURANTS AND FOOD SERVICE ESTABLISHMENTS TO DISCLOSE THE USE OF PEANUT COOKING OILS

Introduced: 4/12/10

By Messrs. Domalewicz, Aylward, Beston, Bullock, Ms. Chapman, Messrs. Clay, Clenahan, Commisso, Ms. Connolly, Messrs. Cotrofeld, Dawson, Ethier, Gordon, Higgins, Horstmyer, Houghtaling, Infante, Joyce, Ms. Maffia-Tobler, Messrs. Mayo, McCoy, Ms. McKnight, Messrs. Morse, Nichols, Rahm, Reilly, Scavo, Steck, Timmins, Ward and Ms. Willingham:

WHEREAS, While the public is protected from environmental hazards such as lead paint, asbestos and artificial trans fats, allergic reactions to certain types of foods can present an equal danger to many people, and

WHEREAS, Peanut allergy is one of the most common food allergies, unfortunately, it also is one of the most dangerous, since peanuts tend to cause particularly severe reactions, allergic symptoms which can affect several areas of the body and may threaten breathing and blood circulation, and

WHEREAS, Studies have indicated that peanut allergies seem to be on the rise in children and in the United States, the number of children with peanut allergy doubled between 1997 and 2002, and

WHEREAS, The federal Food Allergen Labeling and Consumer Protection Act requires that any packaged food product that contains peanuts as an ingredient must list the word "Peanut" on the label, and

WHEREAS, No such warning currently exists regarding cooking oils in restaurants and customers have no clear way of knowing whether or not the food they order is cooked in peanut oil, and

WHEREAS, The Albany County Legislature believes it is in the best interest of Albany County citizens to reduce their exposure to an avoidable risk to their health and well-being by notifying consumers of the presence of peanut oil in the foods they eat in restaurants, now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, That this Honorable Body requests that the Albany County Board of Health and the Health Commissioner develop a practicable plan to amend the Albany County Sanitary Code requiring notification of cooking oils at all Albany County restaurants and food service establishments, and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the Clerk of the County Legislature is directed to forward certified copies of this resolution to the appropriate County Officials.

Adopted by unanimous vote. 4/12/10