

RESOLUTION NO. 413

REQUESTING THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT TO ESTABLISH A PROGRAM FOR THE SAFE DISPOSAL OF UNUSED OR EXPIRED PRESCRIPTION DRUGS

Introduced: 10/12/10

By Messrs. Morse, Nichols, Clenahan, Higgins and Joyce:

WHEREAS, In 2008, 6.2 million Americans ages 12 and older abused prescription drugs, according to national drug enforcement officials, and

WHEREAS, Medicines that languish in home cabinets are highly susceptible to diversion, misuse, and abuse and rates of prescription drug abuse in the U.S. are increasing at alarming rates, as are the number of accidental poisonings and overdoses due to these drugs, and

WHEREAS, Studies show that a majority of abused prescription drugs are obtained from family and friends, including from the home medicine cabinet and in addition, many Americans do not know how to properly dispose of their unused medicine, often flushing them down the toilet or throwing them away - both potential safety and health hazards, and

WHEREAS, When people flush drugs down their toilets or toss them in the garbage they get into the waterways and slip through treatment plants into drinking water and when people toss their meds in the garbage, others often go through trash and either take the drugs or sell them, and

WHEREAS, It is the desire of this Honorable Body that the residents of Albany County have available a safe and effective method of disposing of their unused or expired prescription drugs, now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, By the Albany County Legislature that the Commissioner of Health is requested to develop a program for the safe disposal of prescription drugs in Albany County, 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.

Referred to Health Committee. 10/12/10