



# LIGRA

Happy Independence Day!

IN CONGRESS, JULY 4, 1776.

States of America.

We the People

of the United States, in order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defence, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.

Article I

Article II

**JULY/AUGUST 2025**

Address: 270 Spagnoli Road Suite 203, Melville, NY 11747 | Website: [LIGRA.COM](http://LIGRA.COM)



**PMI USA tobacco nicotine pouches, are now sponsoring our bi-monthly LIGRA Newsletter mailings. We encourage our members to express their support for this partnership.**

ZYN nicotine pouches provide 28 million<sup>1</sup> American adults who smoke cigarettes a better option than continued smoking. Government policies on tobacco and nicotine should be based on science and common sense policies to ensure adult smokers have access to FDA-authorized smoke-free products.



## What Is ZYN?

- ◆ ZYN is a small pouch made with plant-based fibers that contains naturally-derived, pharmaceutical-grade nicotine, food-grade fillers, and flavorings for a smoke-free and spit-free experience.
- ◆ It is designed to be placed between the upper lip and gum, allowing the nicotine to be absorbed orally.
- ◆ ZYN is available with 2 nicotine levels (3mg and 6mg) in 10 varieties mirroring longstanding smokeless tobacco product flavors.
  - ▶ Flavored – Menthol, Cool Mint, Peppermint, Wintergreen, Spearmint, Cinnamon, Coffee, and Citrus.
  - ▶ Unflavored – Smooth and Chill.

## ZYN & Harm Reduction

- ◆ ZYN pouches have almost undetectable levels<sup>2</sup> of cancer-causing toxins compared to other smokeless tobacco products.<sup>3</sup>
- ◆ The overwhelming majority of ZYN users change their smoking behavior after starting ZYN.
  - ▶ Over 50 percent stopped smoking cigarettes.
  - ▶ Nearly one-third reduced the number of cigarettes smoked each day by more than half.<sup>4</sup>



## The "Swedish Experience" & Real-World Evidence

The Swedish experience continues to provide real-world evidence and epidemiological data demonstrating the power of smoke-free tobacco products to reduce the harm caused by cigarettes.

- ◆ Tobacco-related illness and mortality for men is lower in Sweden<sup>5</sup> than in any other European country.
- ◆ Smoking rates in Sweden have fallen to the lowest levels in Europe<sup>6</sup>, all while smoke-free product use has increased.

The Swedish experience is real-world evidence of how access to affordable, acceptable smoke-free products provides a better choice for adult smokers.

## Adult Smokers Deserve Access To Better Choices: Smoke-Free Products

- ◆ ZYN is not risk-free. It contains nicotine, which is addictive.
- ◆ For adults smokers, quitting all tobacco products is always the best choice.
- ◆ On average, nine out of 10<sup>7</sup> adult smokers continue smoking each year.
- ◆ ZYN is a better choice than continued smoking for these adult smokers.

Information provided by PMI Global Services, Inc. – January 2024. This information is intended for policy and regulatory discussions. It is not for advertising or promotional purposes and not intended for a consumer audience.

<sup>1</sup> CDC, Cigarette Smoking in the U.S. (May 4, 2023), <http://report.cdc.gov/m423>

<sup>2</sup> Institute for Tobacco Studies, Mortality attributable to tobacco among men in Sweden and other European countries: an analysis of data in a WHO report (September 5, 2014), <http://report.cdc.gov/26v75dm>

<sup>3</sup> BMC Chemistry, Harmful And Potentially Harmful Constituents (HPHCs) In Two Novel Nicotine Pouch Products In Comparison With Regular Smoking: Tobacco Products And Pharmaceutical Nicotine Replacement Therapy Products (NRTs) (March 3, 2023), <http://report.cdc.gov/35483pp>

<sup>4</sup> SM Internal Study, SMRA23-02: ZYN User Profile Study (2021), (pending publication)

<sup>5</sup> Institute for Tobacco Studies, Mortality Attributable To Tobacco Among Men In Sweden And Other European Countries: An Analysis of Data In A WHO Report (September 5, 2014), <http://report.cdc.gov/26v75dm>

<sup>6</sup> OECD, State of Health In The EU: Sweden (December 13, 2021), <http://report.cdc.gov/34wv4m>

<sup>7</sup> CDC, Cigarette Smoking in the U.S. (May 4, 2023), <http://report.cdc.gov/m423>

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**FYI, you can now pay your LIGRA dues online with no fees for ACH payments. Contact our office to be set up for this convenience**



As we enjoy the July 4th holiday let us all take the time to remember that it is more than just the picnics and barbeques.

We as a nation are celebrating the signing of The Declaration of Independence. The Declaration of Independence was a declaration to the British that the American colonies were to be independent of their rule.

The Declaration of Independence was the catalyst for the changes in government and the establishment of the freedoms we have today. America was to become the envy of all other nations because of our mission for the pursuit of happiness.

The Declaration of Independence was much more than an opportunity for rebellious and political men to make a statement or to boost their own egos. It was a document that carried with its severe consequences as well as priceless gifts for future generations.

In signing their names to the Declaration of Independence, the signers were effectively signing away their protection and anonymity from British forces. John Hancock, president of the Continental Congress, probably had the most cause for fear as he was the leader of the revolution against the British.

True, he was described as a flamboyant character who liked attention. But his large signature on the Declaration of Independence was not to boast his own ego. It was a powerful response to a decree that had been delivered from England in early 1776 offering a large reward for his capture and the capture of several leading figures.

On signing the Declaration in his famously clear and obvious way he commented, "The British ministry can read that name without spectacles; let them double their reward."

In the time following the signing of the Declaration of Independence we see that the British threats were serious, as five signers were captured by the British as traitors and tortured before they died.

Twelve had their homes ransacked and burned, losing all their earthly possessions. Two lost their sons serving in the Revolutionary Army; another had two sons captured. Nine of the fifty-six fought and died from wounds or hardships of the Revolutionary War.

Yet with all the risks, these 56 men knew that in order to create the nation of freedom that they dreamed of, they would need to take a stand. These men were influential, wealthy, popular, educated, and talented. They represented leading authorities in many professions.

These men had everything to lose and risked it all to declare that citizens of America would no longer be forced to be subject to the whims of unfair British rule. Because they did, we live in a nation with liberty and justice; a nation that is united and seeks to foster general welfare and justice for all of us who have the privilege of being Americans.

Thanks to these 56 signers of the Declaration of Independence who pledged their life and liberties to this new country.

**They stood up for what was the right thing to do.**

**Now these 249 years later, we need to hold our elected officials responsible and remind them they work for us.**

**Are we?**

"Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction. We didn't pass it to our children in the bloodstream. It must be fought for, protected, and handed on for them to do the same, or one day we will spend our sunset years telling our children and our children's children what it was once like in the United States where men were free."

Ronald Reagan

HAPPY 4TH OF JULY

**HAPPY INDEPENDENCE DAY**

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On May 14th, the LIGRA board had a meeting with the EPA regarding the regulation that requires registered repair locations to be certified to work on A/C systems, purchase freon, and have expensive equipment. We questioned as to why individuals without any certifications or equipment are allowed to purchase small cans of freon. Here is the response from the EPA on this matter.



OFFICE OF AIR AND RADIATION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

June 16, 2025

Mr. Chris Daniello Executive Director

Long Island Gasoline Retailers Association Inc. 270 Spagnoli  
Road, Suite 203

Melville, New York 11747

Via Electronic Mail: [chris@LIGRA.com](mailto:chris@LIGRA.com) Dear Mr. Daniello:

Thank you for your March 25, 2025, letter to U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Lee Zeldin regarding the Long Island Gasoline Retailers Association's (LIGRA's) concerns about do-it-yourself (DIY) servicing of motor vehicle air conditioner (MVAC) systems and the ability to purchase small cans of refrigerant. The Administrator asked that I respond on his behalf.

I appreciate that you took the time to meet with Senior Advisor to the Administrator Aaron Szabo and me on May 14, 2025. That meeting helped us better understand your concerns regarding the potential for refrigerant release during MVAC repair or servicing by uncertified DIYers and the differing requirements for the purchase of small cans and the larger 20- to 30- pound cylinders your members typically acquire.

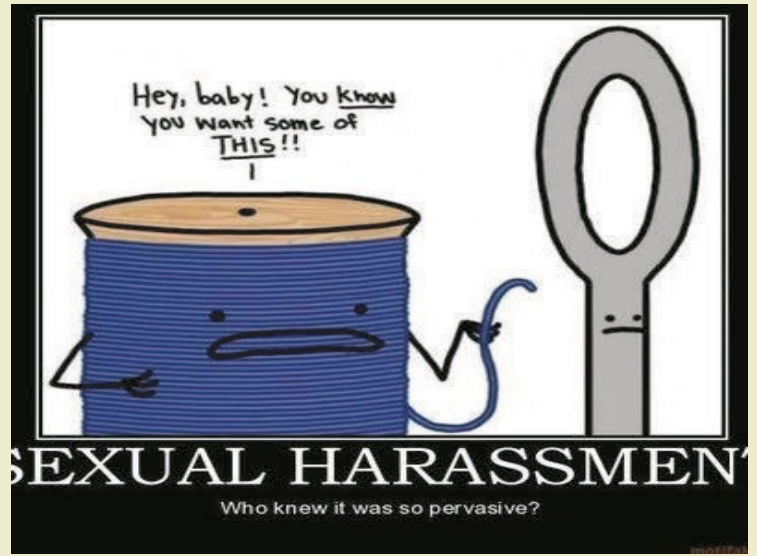
Section 609 of the Clean Air Act (CAA) requires that any person repairing or servicing MVAC systems *for consideration* must be trained and certified. As *service for consideration* refers to payment in exchange for service in the form of cash, credit, goods, or other services, these requirements do not extend to individuals who service their own vehicles. While we understand your concern that DIY servicing may result in improper handling or continued leakage of refrigerants, it is important to note that Congress explicitly exempts DIYers as long as they do not repair or service MVAC systems for payment. This exemption has been codified at [40 CFR Part 82 Subpart B](#).

Continued to page 6

5 [www.Ligra.com](http://www.Ligra.com)

## IS YOUR TRAINING UP TO DATE?

New York State, MANDATES all employers, regardless of the company's size, must have a sexual harassment policy. Employers must also conduct ANNUAL interactive sexual harassment training and provide a written anti-harassment policy to ALL employees. To help keep you in compliance with this regulations. To comply with the MANDATORY interactive sexual harassment training, LIGRA will be hosting this training class. These classes will be held in our LIGRA Office .



We do also offering sexual harassment training in addition, at your location.. The cost is \$40.00 per person for LIGRA members and \$75 per person for non-LIGRA members.

Contact us to set up your training, at [Chris@LIGRA.COM](mailto:Chris@LIGRA.COM)

### Continuation from page 5 regarding meeting with EPA

Certification is also required to purchase refrigerants under the CAA section 608 implementing regulations at [40 CFR Part 82 Subpart F](#). However, there are some exemptions from the sales restrictions, including the one you raised for small cans of substitute refrigerant (e.g., HFC-134a and HFO-1234yf) that contain two pounds or less, have a unique fitting, and have a self-sealing valve. EPA provided this exemption for small cans because prohibiting the sale to DIYers, and by extension, limiting refrigerant options for servicing by DIYers, would be unnecessarily burdensome to consumers who only occasionally purchase refrigerant for personal use.<sup>1</sup> This exemption was finalized in a 2016 rulemaking after significant public input and the self-sealing valve requirement was adopted as a cost-effective mechanism for controlling such releases to the atmosphere. These valves automatically close and seal to prevent leakage when not dispensing refrigerants. Such designs were not widely available when the statutory restriction on CFC-12 small cans went into effect. The statute does not exempt the larger 20- or 30-lb cylinders given the likelihood that these refrigerant containers will be safely handled by certified technicians.

We appreciate your concerns and understand your frustrations as we recognize DIYers are unlikely to be as knowledgeable as LIGRA members about the best practices for maintaining and servicing MVAC systems. At the same time, EPA must operate within its statutory framework as the Clean Air Act intentionally distinguishes between commercial and personal MVAC service activities. We would be happy to arrange a follow up meeting to discuss this further and would welcome additional information about how EPA can further improve its responsibility to uphold its mission to provide clean air, land, and water for every American while implementing the [Great American Comeback Initiative](#).

Again, thank you for your letter. I appreciate the opportunity to be of service and trust the information provided is helpful. If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Chenise Farquharson at xxxxxxxxxx

We look forward to working with you in the future.

## Keeping you informed This is what the DMV is up to



## Department of Motor Vehicles

The DMV field inspectors are out in force conducting undercover inspections. The fines they have been issuing have more than doubled, and court appearances have not significantly reduced these fines. Therefore, it is important to ensure that all inspections are thorough and complete. These are some of the violations by licensed inspection stations can include:

- Issuing inspection stickers without performing proper inspections.
- Using unauthorized or fraudulent inspection stickers.
- All lug nuts are checked.
- The ends of the wiper blades are intact.
- The rear safety belts are present and functional.
- There are batteries in the tint meter, and that all windows comply with the tint limits.
- Failing to maintain the required equipment or records.
- Performing inspections by uncertified inspectors.
- Conducting inspections outside the scope of the station's license (e.g., emissions testing without proper authorization).

Don't give them the easy things to fine you.

### Fine Structure

Fines vary based on the violation's nature and whether it's a first or subsequent offense. Examples include:

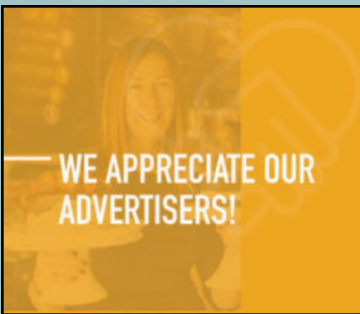
- **Fraudulent or Unauthorized Stickers (VTL 306-f):** A misdemeanor charge with fines up to \$300 per violation plus an \$85 surcharge. Repeated offenses within 18 months can lead to higher fines and up to 30 days in jail.
- **General Inspection Violations:** Fines for improper inspections or record-keeping can range from \$50 to \$500, depending on the violation's severity and the station's history. Persistent violations may lead to license suspension or revocation.

### How Stations Can Avoid Fines

- Ensure all inspections are conducted by certified inspectors using DMV-approved equipment.
- Maintain accurate records and return unused stickers by the March 1 deadline.
- Display the Official Inspection Station sign and adhere to scheduling requirements (e.g., inspecting vehicles within eight working days or providing a written appointment).
- Regularly train staff on DMV regulations and stay updated on changes via the DMV website or industry resources. All the regulations are on the LIGRA.COM website

- **Address customer complaints promptly to avoid escalation to the DMV**





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# LOBBYIST CORNER

## End of 2025 Albany Legislative Session Lobbying Report

Working with our industry partners during this recent Legislative Session in Albany we were finally successful in getting our number one priority bill, the DMV Inspection Station Study Bill (A460/S3103), passed in the NYS Assembly as well as in the NYS Senate. If you recall, the bill stalled in the NYS Senate as the Session wound down in 2024. Moving forward we will monitor when the Assembly sends the Bill over to the Governor for her consideration and use it as leverage to get a meeting with the Governor's Transportation Counsel to explain why the inspection program desperately needs to be updated/modernized particularly the totally inadequate \$10 fee for the safety inspection.

**We have been actively involved in advocating for or opposing various pieces of legislation. Below is the current status of these legislative efforts:**

### **PASSED BOTH HOUSES**

AB 468 Magnarelli, William B.(D) Directs the commissioner of motor vehicles to conduct a study of official inspection stations, safety inspections and fees. SB 3103 Cooney, Jeremy A.

AB 6943-B Hunter, Pamela(D) Establishes standards for glass repair and calibration of advanced driver assistance systems. SB 4879-B Fahy, Patricia A. (F)

### **PASSED ASSEMBLY ONLY**

AB 593 Paulin, Amy R.(D) Requires an official inspection station to post a sign or poster informing customers that it is not authorized to inspect certain vehicles. SB 1680 May, Rachel

### **PASSED SENATE ONLY**

SB 1172 Mattera, Mario R.(R) Requires towers to clean up any debris in the surrounding area resulting from the vehicles they are towing. SB 8739 Mattera, Mario R.

SB 2329 Rivera, J. Gustavo(D) Requires review of all motor vehicle repair shop applicants which includes community input. AB 3699 Alvarez, George A.

SB 3828-A Hoylman-Sigal, Brad(D) Enacts the "emission tampering act". AB 2486-A Carroll, Robert

SB 4230 Comrie, Jr., Leroy G.(D) Relates to the payment of restitution by registered and unregistered repair shops. AB 1673 Weprin, David I.

SB 7551 Bynoe, Siela A. (F)(D) Establishes the bottle redemption fraud task force. AB 3469 Hyndman, Alicia

The New York State once again is tiring to BAN flavored nicotine pouches. The bill has passed the Aassembly, Now is the time to contact your Senator voicing your opposition to Senate Bill S443-b

### Now is the time to act.

Lets flood the Senate with letters voicing our opposition to this bill.

**Re: Opposition to A.141-A / S.443-B – Enact to amend the public health law, in relation to regulating the sale of oral nicotine pouches.**

Retailers across New York State — including thousands of neighborhood businesses, many of them family owned and operated —**strongly opposes A.141-A (Rosenthal)/S.443-B(Hoylman- Sigal).**

Small business retailers in New York sell several age-restricted products, in addition to tobacco and nicotine products ,and take the responsibility of ensuring that no such products end up in the hands of under age users very seriously. While the intention of reducing under age consumption is important, this legislation risks creating unintended consequences that would harm responsible businessowners, do nothing to increase enforcement of bad actors ,and drive tax revenue out of the state.

New York already ranks first in the nation for illicit tobacco trafficking due to high taxes and existing product bans. In 2020, a similar ban was put into law for vapor products. The result was an explosion of these products being sold indiscriminately on the illicit market. Even today, these products are widespread and remain the number one choice for young people despite being banned for years. Prohibition does not work ,especially when the state enacts laws with little interest in enforcing them. What prohibition accomplishes is penalizing regulated, law-abiding businesses and giving a fat pay day to unscrupulous actors with little interest in obeying the law.

In 2023, the legislature correctly rejected a proposal by Governor Hochul to ban menthol flavored products for these exact reasons. Why would we turn around and take the exact opposite position for products that are less harmful than cigarettes?

Banning yet another product without increasing enforcement of already-banned products will only strengthen the hand of illegal distributors who have continued to thrive, despite the2020 ban on flavored vapor products .Rather than curbing demand, this legislation risks pushing lawful consumers into an unregulated and untaxed illicit market—undermining public health oversight while depriving the state of significant tax revenue. Additionally, it will harm responsible small business owners who rely on the lawful sale of nicotine pouches and benefit from the additional foot traffic they generate. Many of these consumers also purchase gas, snacks, beverages, and other items, providing critical supplemental revenue to local businesses already struggling with inflation and increasing regulatory burdens.

This bill creates an inconsistent double standard between flavored vapor products and flavored oral nicotine pouches by allowing only flavored vapor products that have received U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) authorization through the Premarket Tobacco Product Application (PMTA) and scientific review to be exempt from the prohibition, while denying the same exemption to flavored oral nicotine pouches that have also under gone and received FDA authorization. This inconsistency not only undermines the integrity of the federal regulatory process but also disregards the growing number of adult smokers who are turning to nicotine pouches as a noncombustible, smoke-free alternative to help them quit traditional cigarettes. In recent years, millions of adults have adopted oral nicotine products to successfully transition away from combustible tobacco. Denying access to FDA-authorized flavored oral nicotine pouches while exempting similarly authorized vapor products creates an uneven regulatory playing field and limits options for adults seeking safer alternatives.

Continued on page 11




Additionally, this legislation will not prevent adults from accessing these products, it will simply take the revenue away from law-abiding, regulated businesses. New Yorkers who currently purchase flavored nicotine pouches in convenience stores will continue to have a myriad of options to access these products: neighboring states, sovereign tribal territories, and retailers who skirt the law. These products will continue to be readily available to customers statewide, just with fewer safeguards, and while harming small New York businesses. This cross-border commerce is not hypothetical; it is already happening with traditional tobacco products and will only increase with the passage of this legislation. The loss of millions in tax revenue will adversely affect essential state services at a time when the federal government is beginning to cut critical health services.

While the desire to reduce youth access to flavored nicotine products is important and shared by many stakeholders, A.141-A/S.443-B will ultimately do more harm than good. It will grow New York's already rampant illicit market, drive commerce and tax revenue out of state, and reduce access to harm reduction tools for adult smokers. A more balanced approach—focused on enforcement, education, and responsible retail access—is the path forward.

**For these reasons, we respectfully oppose A.141-A/S.443-B and urge lawmakers to vote No on this legislation.**

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