



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Patty Ritchie

## Ritchie Bill Banning Use Of "E-Cigarettes" On School Grounds Signed Into Law

PATTY RITCHIE July 25, 2017



State Senator Patty Ritchie is announcing legislation she sponsors that protects student health by banning electronic cigarettes on school-owned property has been signed into law by the Governor.

Under the new law (S.750), the electronic devices widely known as “e-cigarettes” join tobacco as banned smoking substances on school buses and school grounds. E-cigarette use has doubled among high school students in 2014-2016, according to a report from the state health

department.

“Schools are meant to be safe places for students, however, when they are exposed to things like e-cigarettes, their health is put at risk,” said Senator Ritchie. “With so much still unknown about the chemical makeup up of the nicotine solution used in e-cigarettes, this new law will safeguard the health of children across the state and continue New York’s commitment to preventing childhood and teenage smoking.”

"Parents should not have to worry about their children's health being compromised while they are in school," said Assemblymember Linda B. Rosenthal, Assembly sponsor of the bipartisan measure. "Banning the use of e-cigarettes on school grounds will protect the health and safety of children and help reduce e-cigarette use among young people who are increasingly picking up the smoking and vaping habit."

The new law stems from the advocacy of local students who are part of Reality Check, a group that aims to protect people from the dangers of tobacco. Reality Check works to help eliminate exposure to secondhand smoke, decrease youth tobacco use and protect young people from tobacco marketing.

“According to statistics, the use of electronic cigarettes continues to rise and it’s our job to raise awareness to curb the usage of these devices,” said Chelsea Bartlett, Community Engagement Coordinator for Reality Check of Jefferson, Lewis and St. Lawrence Counties. “On behalf of Reality Check, thank you Senator Ritchie for always being a tireless advocate for protecting the health of students across our region and ensuring that children won’t be exposed to e-cigarettes while at school.”

During the recent legislative session, the Senate and Assembly passed a similar measure (S.2543-A) that would ban the use of e-cigarettes in certain indoor and outdoor areas. The

bill—which is cosponsored by Senator Ritchie—awaits the Governor’s signature.