



STATE OF NEW YORK  
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT  
DIVISION OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL

STATE LIQUOR AUTHORITY 80 S. Swan Street, Suite 900 317 Lenox Ave 125 Main Street  
Albany, New York 12210-8002 New York, New York 10027 Buffalo, New York 14203

IN REPLYING REFER TO  
Albany

MEDIA ADVISORY

For Immediate Release

August 2, 2006

Contact: Bill Crowley (518) 486-4767

[PressOffice@abc.state.ny.us](mailto:PressOffice@abc.state.ny.us)

**GOVERNOR PATAKI SIGNS LAW BANNING ALCOHOL INHALING DEVICES**

Albany, NY – Governor George E. Pataki today announced he has signed legislation banning devices that enable consumers to inhale alcohol vapors. The new law would impose tough penalties on those who sell, possess or allow the use of the devices, commonly known as alcohol without liquid, or "AWOL."

The devices create a mist out of liquor which is inhaled by the user, causing alcohol to be absorbed into the bloodstream through the lungs. The result can be a dangerously fast intoxication, as the alcohol travels directly to the blood stream.

"By signing this legislation, Governor Pataki has preemptively blocked the use of these dangerous devices before they become a problem," said Chairman Daniel B. Boyle. "The Governor's action today, coupled with the State Liquor Authority's enforcement efforts, will help to further ensure the safety and health of the public."

The new law bans any device or process that mixes alcohol with gas to produce a vaporized product to be consumed by inhalation. Violators face fines up to \$5,000 for the first offense and up to \$10,000 for subsequent violations. Bar owners and others holding liquor licenses face the potential of losing their license if found in violation of the new law.

"The health and safety of the public is a critical responsibility of the SLA," Chairman Boyle said. "We will continue to take all necessary steps to protect the public and ensure that dangerous devices like AWOL are not sold or used in New York State."

The State Liquor Authority regulates and controls the manufacture, sale and distribution of alcoholic beverages within the State. The Authority works with local law enforcement agencies and localities across the State to ensure compliance with the Alcoholic Beverage Control Law. In addition, the Authority issues and renews licenses and permits to manufacturers, distributors, wholesalers and retailers of alcoholic beverages.

On the Web: [www.abc.state.ny.us](http://www.abc.state.ny.us)

###

