LOCAL RETAIL ENVIRONMENT POLICIES IN NEW YORK STATE

The tobacco industry spends billions every year on advertising and promotion of commercial tobacco products in the U.S., which leads to increased youth initiation and makes it harder for tobacco users to quit.

Local governments of all sizes in New York State have taken important steps to protect the health of their communities by adopting policies that restrict commercial tobacco in the retail environment. Below is a table of all such policies organized by type:

Local Retail Environment Policies

Policy Type	Localities That Have Passed Policies
Advertising/Promotion	Auburn*, Dolgeville, Greenburgh, Hempstead, New York City, Salina
Density	Auburn*, Irondequoit*, New York City, Perinton*, Syracuse
Flavors	New York City, St. Regis Mohawk Tribe
Pharmacy	Five local jurisdictions in New York State passed policies prohibiting sales of tobacco products in pharmacies. In 2020, New York State followed suit, passing a law prohibiting all sales of tobacco products in pharmacies.
Proximity	Auburn*, Bethlehem, Binghamton*, Cayuga, Cortland, Dolgeville, Endicott, Greenburgh, Hempstead, Irondequoit*, Middletown, Nassau, Newburgh, New Rochelle*, Niskayuna*, Perinton*, Sullivan, Syracuse, Ulster
Retailer Cap	Bethlehem, Cortland, Dolgeville, Endicott, New York City, Newburgh, Salina, Syracuse
Tax	New York City
Tobacco Retail License	Bethlehem, Buffalo, Cayuga, Cortland, Dolgeville, Dutchess, Endicott, Middletown, New York City, Newburgh, Salina, Syracuse, Tannersville, Ulster

*Please note the following are zoning laws and offer juristictions less control over retailers than retail licensing policies.

To read the details of each policy, view our online tool.

LOCAL RETAIL ENVIRONMENT POLICIES IN NEW YORK STATE (CONT.)

Your community can also counter the harms of commercial tobacco by adopting laws that protect public health and limit exposure to commercial tobacco advertising. These policies can help ensure compliance with local business standards, reduce youth access to tobacco products, limit the negative public health and equity impacts of tobacco use, and enforce local, state, and federal tobacco control laws.

Restricting commercial tobacco sales to brick-and-mortar retail and regulating the products that can be sold is often done through local tobacco retailer licensing laws. Such laws require a retailer to obtain a license before selling commercial tobacco products and allow jurisdictions to suspend or revoke licenses for violations. These laws can reduce or restrict the number, location, density, and types of tobacco retail outlets; limit point-of-sale ad and product placement; specify which products can be sold; and require retailers to comply with other tobacco control measures.

Communities are at different stages of readiness and ability to adopt policies that curb the harms of commercial tobacco. *As such, many local laws in the table above contain language that does not reflect public health best practices*. For model policy language, please refer to the following PHLC resources:

Tobacco Retailer Licensing Model Ordinance

Legal Theories used to Challenge Flavored Tobacco Sales Policies

Limiting Tobacco Sales in Rural New York Communities

New York State & Flavored Tobacco: Leveraging Local Policy Power

If you have a questions or would like to learn more about how we can provide support, please contact us at PHLC.NYS@mitchellhamline.edu.