

New York City Council

Memorandum in Support of Legislation

This memorandum is authored by the sponsor and explains the need for the legislation referenced below, in accordance with Rule 6.00(d) of the Rules of the Council.

Introduction Number:

Int. No. Int 0729-2026

Prime Sponsors:

Council Member Amanda Farías

Bill Title:

A Local Law to amend the administrative code of the city of New York, in relation to requiring pharmacies and food retail stores to staff self-service checkout areas and impose a 15-item maximum for self-service checkout purchases to help combat retail theft

Submitted by:

Council Member Amanda Farías

Justification:

Self-checkout was designed to streamline the shopping experience, but understaffed kiosks have instead become a significant source of retail theft. Retailers across New York lose billions, annually, to retail theft, and a growing share occurs at self-checkout areas. When companies lose revenue, they raise prices to compensate, driving up the cost of food and essential goods and passing the burden of a failing model onto everyday New Yorkers.

This bill requires large pharmacies and food retail stores to maintain a ratio of one supervising worker per every three self checkout machines, and to impose a 15-item maximum for self-service checkout purchases. Violations would be subject to a civil penalty of \$100 per employee present at the time of the violation, increasing by \$100 per employee for each day the violation goes uncured, up to \$1,000 per employee per day, enforced by the Department of Consumer and Worker Protection. Reinvesting in staffing is good for revenue, for jobs, and for consumer confidence. We must fix the system, rather than continuing to pass the cost of preventable losses onto New Yorkers who are already struggling with the affordability crisis.