



Legislation Text

File #: Res 1401-2012, **Version:** *

Res. No. 1401

Resolution calling on the Governor to sign A10095/S7446, which would permit the body piercing of minors only with written parental consent.

By Council Members Vallone, Koo, Koslowitz, Williams, Wills and Halloran

Whereas, New York State currently requires parental consent prior to tattooing anyone under the age of 18; and

Whereas, In contrast, there is currently no minimum age requirement for body piercing, which the Public Health Law defines as the piercing of any part of the body except the ears, although some individual stores may set their own age limits; and

Whereas, A10095/S7446 would prohibit a body piercing studio from piercing a minor unless such studio has received written consent from a parent or guardian and would require the studio to retain the written consent form for twelve months; and

Whereas, The memorandum in support of the legislation reports that more than one-third of those with body piercings receiving such piercing while still a minor; and

Whereas, Recent news reports, including one aired on CBS New York on June 14, 2012, report that at some piercing studios in New York City, fifty percent of body piercing customers are minors; and

Whereas, Infection is a common complication of mouth and nose piercings, due to an excess of bacteria in those locations; and

Whereas, Tongue, lip and cheek piercings may damage teeth and gums over time and are thus opposed by the American Dental Association; and

Whereas, According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the use of contaminated or non-

sterile piercing equipment may cause exposure to bloodborne pathogens, including Hepatitis B or C or HIV;
and

Whereas, Some pre-existing health conditions, including diabetes, hemophilia or auto-immune disorders may interfere with the healing process; and

Whereas; Parents and guardians should be aware of these potential health risks and other concerns associated with body piercings; and

Whereas, The Association of Professional Piercers, an industry group, recommends that piercers receive written parental consent prior to piercing anyone under eighteen; and

Whereas, Thirty-one states currently prohibit body piercing of minors without parental permission; and

Whereas, A10095/S7446 passed both the Assembly and the Senate in June 2012; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Council of the City of New York calls on the Governor to enact A10095/S7446, which would permit the body piercing of minors only with written parental consent.