



New York State YMCA
Youth And Government

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FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Committee Assignment: Assembly Freedom 4

Bill #:AF-29

1 **Sponsors:** Daniel Melendez, Treshelle Pierre, Felicia Morgenstond

2

3 **An Act To**

4 Amend Section 424 of New York State Tax law to impose a sales tax of 0.03% cents
5 per ounce on drinks containing sugar.

6

7 **The People of the State of New York, represented in the Senate and Assembly do enact as follows:**

8

9 **Purpose**

10 The purpose of this bill is to put a tax on sugary drinks and to decrease the
11 consumption of sugar and the amount of childhood and adulthood obesity. This bill
12 will put a 0.03% cents tax of sugary drinks.

13

14 **Summary of Provisions**

15 Section 1: Definitions

16 CDC: The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is a federal agency that
17 conducts and supports health promotion, prevention and preparedness activities in
18 the United States, with the goal of improving overall public health.

19 Sugary drinks: Including soda and other carbonated soft drinks, sports drinks,
20 energy drinks, fruit-flavored or powdered drinks, vitamin-enhanced drinks,
21 sweetened tea and coffee drinks.

22 Section 2:

23 (h) Impose a sales tax to add a 0.03% cents tax per ounce on added drinks
24 containing sugar such as sugary drinks including soda and other carbonated soft
25 drinks, sports drinks, energy drinks, fruit-flavored or powdered drinks, vitamin-
26 enhanced drinks, sweetened tea and coffee drinks.

27

28 **Justification**

29 According to the CDC obesity was 39.8% in adults and 18.5% in youth. The
30 prevalence of obesity was higher among middle-aged adults (42.8%) than among
31 younger adults (35.7%). This shows that the obesity rate in New York is very high in
32 adults and children. In California and Philadelphia cities there has been shown large
33 decreases in obesity rates due to their similar tax laws to this bill. Berkley California
34 passed this bill and it has been in effect since March 1st 2017, this has been
35 followed by other California cities in the same year such as Albany in April, and
36 Oakland in July. Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and Boulder, Colorado have had similar
37 bills since January 1st, 2017 and July 1st, 2017 respectively. We as a state need to
38 show that we can take the same initiative to lower rates of obesity. This bill will



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39 reduce the rates of obesity in New York State which have been on the rise for well
40 over a decade. A tax of 0.03% cents per ounce will be placed upon the sale of
41 drinks. As a result of the enhanced amount of sugar taken in by many children and
42 adults, many suffer from health related diseases such as diabetes and obesity.

43

44 **Fiscal Implications**

45 Money collected from the tax will go towards NYS Obesity Prevention Center for
46 Excellence (OPCE). Creating Healthy Schools and Communities (CHSC) is a five-
47 year (2015-2020), public health initiative of the New York State Department of
48 Health (NYSDOH) with the goal of reducing major risk factors of obesity, diabetes,
49 and other chronic diseases in 85 high-need school districts and associated
50 communities. Putting the money into this organization will make it easier to spread
51 around the world that obesity is a problem, this way they can take bigger
52 precautions to making the US healthier.

53

54 **Environmental Implications**

55 There are no environmental implications for this bill.

56

57 **Effective Date**

58 This bill will go into effect one year after passage.