# Legislation BOL Meeting Minutes Published Draft



Committee Chair: Colin Smith

800 Michaelian Office Bldg. 148 Martine Avenue, 8th Floor White Plains, NY 10601 www.westchesterlegislators.com

Monday, May 19, 2025

1:00 PM

Committee Room

## Joint with ED

# **CALL TO ORDER**

Please note: Meetings of the Board of Legislators and its committees are held at the Michaelian Office Building, 148 Martine Avenue, White Plains, New York, 10601, and remotely via the WebEx video conferencing system. Legislators may participate in person or via Webex. Members of the public may attend meetings in person at any of its locations, or view it online on the Westchester County Legislature's website: https://westchestercountyny.legistar.com/ This website also provides links to materials for all matters to be discussed at a given meeting.

Legislator Colin Smith will be participating remotely from 1132 Main Street, Suite 1, Peekskill, NY 10566.

With a quorum present, Vice-Chair Imamura called the meeting to order at 1:06 p.m.

Others in Attendance: BOL: Legislators: Ben Boykin, Catherine Parker, Shanae Williams, Judah Holstein, and Jewel Williams Johnson; Committee Coordinators: Jill Axelrod and Dayana Gomez; Marcello Figueroa; Law Dept.: John Nonna and Stacey Dolgin-Kmetz; Consumer Protection Dept.: Jim Maisano, Lila Kirton, and Ethan Bogren

**Present:** Legislator Boykin, Legislator Nolan, Legislator Ulaj, Legislator Woodson-Samuels,

Legislator Cunzio and Legislator Imamura

Absent: Legislator Smith and Legislator Tubiolo

### MINUTES APPROVAL

Monday, May 5, 2025 at 1:00 p.m.

On motion of Legislator Cunzio, seconded by Legislator Nolan, the above item was approved. The motion carried unanimously.

# I. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

Guests: Law Dept.: County Attorney John Nonna and Chief Deputy County Attorney Stacey Dolgin-Kmetz; Consumer Protection: James Maisano, Director

# 1. <u>RES-2025-58</u> PH - Amending the Westchester County Consumer Protection Code

Consumer Protection Director Jim Maisano, Deputy Director Lila Kirton and County Sealer Ethan Bogren discussed the item. Mr. Maisano said that current law prohibits deceptive trade practices or unfair trade practices, but this law will go further and also ban abusive trade practices and unfair trade practices. He noted that these changes will allow for better and

clearer enforcement of the Consumer Protection Code.

Mr. Maisano said that at the suggestion of Legislator Barr, the law will now require companies that do power washing to have a license. He noted that there is an exemption for homeowners.

Mr. Maisano said that when the Consumer Protection Code was written 50 years ago, it set the limit on fines for violations at \$1000, and that has not changed. This law will raise the limit to \$5000. He explained that the fines are used for compliance, and the higher limit is an important tool to discourage bad actors, most of whom are home contractors, where damages often far exceed \$1000.

He said the law also clarifies that any kind of retailer must provide a receipt to customers. He said this is a better way to protect consumers, and give them ability to come to the Consumer Protection Department with the receipt if they were wronged in some way.

He also said some technical changes were made to update the item pricing law which will help with enforcement.

He added that the home improvement contractor licensing law is being clarified regarding the requirement that a contractor must have a vehicle ID display on the side of its vehicles. He stated that language from the New York State General Business Law on contract requirements between a homeowner and a home improvement contractor was added to the County law. He said that a provision was added requiring contractors to disclose insurance provisions in writing to the consumer.

Legislator Barr questioned whether the term "subcontractor" should be expressly defined in the law. Mr. Maisano said he did not think it would be a problem since it's a well-known term, and it is defined in the state law. He added that this legislation will give him the ability to set administrative rules for any sections that his department administers, so he can address the definition that way if necessary.

On motion of Legislator Nolan, seconded by Legislator Ulaj, the above item was signed by committee and referred to Board of Legislators. The motion carried unanimously.

2. <u>2025-201</u>

LEGISLATORS IMAMURA, SMITH, WOODSON-SAMUELS, TUBIOLO, ALVARADO, HOLSTEIN, CLEMENTS. WILLIAMS JOHNSON, WILLIAMS, PIERCE, GASHI, NOLAN, BARR AND BOYKIN: LL - Amending the County of Westchester Consumer Protection Code

See discussion of Item #1 above.

On motion of Legislator Nolan, seconded by Legislator Ulaj, the above item was signed by committee and referred to Board of Legislators. The motion carried unanimously.

- II. OTHER BUSINESS
- III. RECEIVE & FILE

# **ADJOURNMENT**

Moved by Legislator Nolan, seconded by Legislator Cunzio, the Committee adjourned at 1:50 p.m.