

Ruth Walter

Legislator, 15th District
Chair, Committee on Appointments



Committee Assignments

Budget & Appropriations
Environment & Health
Parks & Recreation
Planning, Economic Development & Energy
Public Works & Transportation

DATE: September 29, 2021

TITLE: Gun Store Warning Label Law

SPONSOR: Legislator Walter

PURPOSE OR GENERAL IDEA OF BILL: To create a new law that would require all gun dealers in Westchester County to post signage intended to warn customers of the dangers ownership of a gun poses near the point of sale.

INTENT: To better inform potential buyers of firearms in Westchester County of the dangers of owning a gun in the home, which can lead to accidental discharge, preventable suicide, unintended death of a child, other household members, or death during a domestic dispute.

JUSTIFICATION: According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention's fatal injury reports from 2015-2019, on average 38,826 people die as a result of firearm usage in the United States each year. Of these deaths, 38% are homicides and 60% are suicides. An average of 483 deaths per year are from unintentional shootings. The average number of non-fatal injuries from a firearm doubles to 76, 127 per year.

Point of sale messaging has been proven to influence a consumer's behavior based on the message. This legislation aims to have a similar impact like point of sale tobacco warning labels as well as calorie labeling on restaurant menus, to influence the consumer to make smarter, safer, healthier choices.

PRESENT LAW: While Westchester County and New York State have many gun safety laws in place, no such law requiring a warning label containing the dangers of gun ownership and/or usage exists.

FISCAL IMPACT: Minimal fiscal impact to both the County and firearm dealers.