

2013-J689

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION memorializing Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim April 27, 2013, as Prescription Drug Take-Back Day in the State of New York, in conjunction with National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to recognize official days that are set aside to increase awareness of serious concerns that affect the lives of citizens of New York State; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, it is the sense of this Legislative Body to memorialize Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim Saturday, April 27, 2013, as Prescription Drug Take-Back Day in the State of New York, in conjunction with National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day; and

WHEREAS, National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day was initiated in 2010 by the United States Department of Justice Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) in an attempt to rid homes of accumulated unwanted, unused or expired prescription drugs in a safe and convenient way; and

WHEREAS, Last year, Americans who participated in the DEA's fifth National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day turned in 488,395 pounds (244 tons) of unwanted or expired medications for safe and proper disposal at the 5,263 take-back sites that were available in all 50 states and U.S. territories; and

WHEREAS, When the results of the five prior Prescription Drug Take-Back Days are combined, the DEA, and its state, local, and tribal law-enforcement and community partners have removed more than 2,000,000 pounds (1,018 tons) of medication from circulation; and

WHEREAS, The five Prescription Drug Take-Back Days to date have dramatically reduced the risk of prescription drug diversion and abuse, as well as increased awareness of this critical public health issue; and

WHEREAS, Prescription Drug Take-Back Day promotes drug abuse prevention and public safety by providing communities with an environmentally-safe, "no-questions asked" location to turn in prescription drugs that are no longer needed or are expired; and

WHEREAS, Seventeen North Country law enforcement jurisdictions and

communities participated in an October 2011 event during which a total of 571 pounds of prescription drugs were collected for safe disposal, including 127.3 pounds from North Country nursing homes and long-term care facilities; previously, in an April 30, 2011 event, 451 pounds of prescription drugs were collected; as a result, more than 1,021 pounds of prescription drugs were removed from North Country homes and streets through this community action program; and

WHEREAS, According to the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, traces of drugs are being found in our lakes, rivers and streams; some drugs pass largely unaltered through our wastewater treatment plants and enter rivers and other waters; and

WHEREAS, In addition, fish and other aquatic wildlife are being adversely affected, and there is documented concern that drug-resistant bacteria may develop; and

WHEREAS, It is imperative that there be greater public awareness of this serious issue, and more must be done to increase knowledge and attentiveness at both the State and local levels to protect both the environment and the citizens of the State of New York; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to memorialize Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim April 27, 2013, as Prescription Drug Take-Back Day in the State of New York, in conjunction with National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to The Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo, Governor of the State of New York.