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New bill aimed to ban electronic cigarette smoking in NYC bars, restaurants

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on December 04, 2013 at 4:05 PM, updated December 04, 2013 at 4:06 PM

The New York City Council is looking to ban the use of e-cigarettes in bars, restaurants and other indoor public spaces.

The council's Health Committee is expected to vote on a proposal to add e-cigarette smoking to its existing ban on Dec. 19, its last scheduled voting meeting before a new mayor takes over.

The legislation is sponsored by Speaker Christine Quinn and Councilman James Gennaro.

“We see these cigarettes are really starting to proliferate, and it's unacceptable,” Gennaro said Wednesday. “I get reports of people smoking cigarettes in public libraries. Certainly, they're becoming more common in restaurants and bars.”

Makers of e-cigarettes contend they are safer than regular cigarettes because they do not burn tar or tobacco, and are a good alternative for smokers looking to quit.

Smoking was banned from all enclosed workplaces in New York, including bars and restaurants, in 2002. The ban has since spread to parks, beaches and plazas.

The Associated Press contributed to this report.

http://www.nj.com/news/index.ssf/2013/12/bill_looking_to_ban_electronic_cigarette_smoking_in_bars_restaurants_in_nyc.html