GOVERNMENT SERVICES & ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

OF THE

DUTCHESS COUNTY LEGISLATURE

Thursday, August 6, 2026, 6:00 p.m.

Committee Vice Chair Shah called the committee to order at 7:19 p.m.

PRESENT: 10 ATKINS, GILES, LAWLER, METZGER, MUNN, POLASEK, REDL, SHAH, TRESCA, VALDÉS SMITH

ABSENT: 2 DRAGO, KEARNEY

PRESENT/LATE: 0

QUORUM PRESENT

Presentations and Reports

None.

Privilege of the Floor with respect to printed agenda items

The Clerk noted that correspondence has been received from an Orange County resident as relates to the Resolution.

Resolutions

2026136 Local Law No. ___ of 2026 Prohibiting the sale and distribution of concentrated and synthetic 7-hydroxymitragynine (7-OH) Kratom products in Dutchess County

Moved by Majority Leader Atkins, seconded by Assistant Majority Leader Munn.

Discussion: Assistant Majority Leader Munn spoke about the rise of Kratom use and an overdose death in his community. He said he was proud to be part of a group bringing the Resolution forward.

Minority Leader Polasek acknowledged limited knowledge about Kratom, and asked about the difference between a synthetic or natural Kratom, and asked if the Local Law bans both products or just one.

Assistant Majority Leader Munn said the law carves out the natural leaf, the low-dose non-concentrated form which is frequently used by adults responsibly while banning synthetic concentrated Kratom variants.

Minority Leader Polasek asked about the difference, and why one is worse than the other.

Assistant Majority Leader Munn acknowledged that he is not a medical expert or a doctor, but it was his understanding that the natural leaf or teas contain very low dosages, while concentrated or synthetic Kratom products have much more addictive tendencies.

Minority Leader Polasek asked if the distinction has to do with the potency of the Kratom itself.

Assistant Majority Leader Munn reiterated that he is not a medical doctor, but said that the ban is based on potency.

Legislator Brendli spoke about "gas station Kratom" that is packaged in a way to be enticing to young people.

Assistant Minority Leader Metzger spoke in favor of the Local Law, drawing comparisons to the packaging of e-cigarette products which are enticing to young people, and said he hoped the Legislature would take future action with regards to filling in certain details.

Assistant Majority Leader Munn said packaging wouldn't be a future issue since all of the packaged concentrated products will be banned, but remained open to the possibility of future legislative action regarding specific rates regarding 2 percent.

Legislator Kaul said she has spoken with members of the Board of Health, and said that members of the BOH had told her they were very happy about the action to ban 7-OH products. She further said that some of the concerns about the concentrates is that they are often blended with other chemicals or metals which are dangerous to human health.

Legislator Lawler spoke in favor of the Resolution and the changes made by Legislator Munn and others to strengthen the provisions of the Local Law.

Minority Leader Polasek said he was in favor of the Resolution, and referred to the original proposal put forth by the County Executive which would ban both synthetic Kratom and the Kratom leaf, and asked how the current iteration of the Local Law would be enforced.

Assistant Majority Leader Munn said that he doesn't work for the BOH but that the BOH has enforcement teams which look into matters, and it might be a question for the BOH.

Minority Leader Polasek said he would support the Resolution tonight and would do further research and ask more questions over the weekend, saying his personal opinion was that the Legislature should ban both forms of Kratom.

Assistant Majority Leader Munn thanked Minority Leader Polasek for his support tonight and reiterated that adults who want the low-dose leaf should be able to make that choice for themselves. He said if the BOH said it would be impossible to enforce the proposed law there could be a future discussion.

The Government Services and Administration Committee unanimously advanced the foregoing Resolution, with Legislators Drago and Kearney absent.

There being no further business, Committee Vice Chair Shah adjourned the Committee meeting at 7:44 p.m.