



Monroe County Legislature

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No. <u>210296</u>
Not to be removed from the Office of the Legislature Of Monroe County
Committee Assignment
AGENDA/CHARTER-L

To The Honorable
Monroe County Legislature
39 West Main Street
Rochester, NY 14614

RE: A Local Law to Establish the Food Delivery Fairness Act

Honorable Legislators:

During the Covid-19 pandemic, consumers have relied on delivery and take-out to safely enjoy restaurant meals. As pandemic-related restrictions are lifted, it is clear that many consumers will continue to enjoy this convenience.

Third-party food delivery services, of which only three control more than 90 percent of the United States market, often list restaurants on their websites and applications without their consent. Restaurants do not like this practice, because it deprives them of control over a variety of aspects of their businesses, including quality of service, gratuities, and volume of orders. Some restaurants don't want to participate in any delivery or takeout services, and others already offer their own in-house delivery services.

The legislation accomplishes the goal of allowing restaurants to operate independently of the third-party food delivery services and to make important decisions about their businesses.

The specific legislative actions required are:

1. Schedule and hold a public hearing.
2. Adopt the Local Law as attached.

This proposal will have no impact on the revenue and/or expenditures of the current Monroe County Budget.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rachel Barnhart
Legislator – District 21

By Legislator Barnhart

Intro. No. _____

LOCAL LAW NO. _____ OF 2021

LOCAL LAW ENTITLED “To Establish the Food Delivery Fairness Act”

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE COUNTY OF MONROE, as follows:

Section 1. Title

This local law shall be known as the law “**To Establish the Food Delivery Fairness Act**”

Section 2. Definitions

“Restaurant” shall have the same meaning as provided in §569-50 of the Monroe County Code.

“Third-party food delivery service” shall mean any website, mobile application or other internet service that offers or arranges for the sale of food and beverages prepared by, and the same-day delivery and same-day pickup of food and beverages from, restaurants located in the County that are owned and operated by different persons.

Section 3. Listing on Third-Party Food Delivery Service Platforms

1. A third-party food delivery service shall not list, advertise, promote, or sell a restaurant’s products, or arrange for the delivery of an order of such products, on a third-party food delivery platform without a valid written agreement with the restaurant authorizing the inclusion of their products on such platform.
2. In the event a third-party food delivery service receives a written request from a restaurant requesting that such restaurant be removed from such third-party food delivery service’s application and/or website, such third-party food delivery service shall confirm receipt of such request and remove such restaurant from its application and/or website immediately thereafter.

Section 4. Enforcement

1. In the event that a third-party food delivery platform does not remove a restaurant from its application and/or website after receiving a request to do so from such restaurant

within five business days of receiving such request, a restaurant may enforce this Chapter by means of a civil action seeking injunctive relief. The prevailing party in any such action shall be entitled to an award of reasonable attorney fees.

Section 5. Severability

If any clause, sentence, paragraph, section, subdivision or other part of this Local Law or its application shall be adjudged by a Court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid or unconstitutional, such order or judgment shall not affect, impair, or otherwise invalidate the remainder of this Local Law which shall remain in full force and effect except as limited by such order or judgment.

Section 6. Preemption

This section shall be null and void on the day statewide legislation goes into effect, incorporating either the same or substantially similar provisions as are contained in this law, unless state law specifically exempts from preemption earlier enacted local laws in this area. The County Legislature may determine via resolution whether or not identical or substantially similar statewide legislation or pertinent preempting state or federal regulations have been enacted for the purposes of triggering the provisions in this section.

Section 7. Effective Date

This Local Law shall take effect in accordance with the provisions of the Municipal Home Rule Law and the Monroe County Charter.

File No. 21-0 _____

ADOPTION: Date: _____ Vote: _____

ACTION BY THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

APPROVED: _____ VETOED: _____

SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____

EFFECTIVE DATE OF LOCAL LAW: _____