

\*\*\*For Immediate Release\*\*\*  
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## Governor Hochul Signs Stavisky Legislation to Ban Smoking in Public Parks

ALBANY- Governor Kathy Hochul signed legislation sponsored by Senator Toby Ann Stavisky (D- Queens) prohibiting smoking in all state-owned beaches, boardwalks, marinas, playgrounds, recreation centers, and group camps. The bill signed last week was sponsored in the Assembly by Jeffrey Dinowitz (Bronx).

"This law is important for a number of reasons. In addition to the obvious health risks posed by secondhand smoke, non-biodegradable filters in cigarette butts are a major environmental hazard and they are the leading item found during cleanup projects. Through this prohibition, parks and beaches will be kept cleaner and safer for those who enjoy them," **Senator Stavisky noted.**

"New York's public parks are family friendly venues," **says Senator Toby Ann Stavisky.** "No one, especially children, should be subjected to secondhand smoke while playing on a playground or enjoying the day at a public beach or camp site. Our parks also shouldn't be tainted by non-biodegradable cigarette butts scattered throughout their grounds. I am proud to sponsor this legislation to protect and improve our beautiful network of parks and I thank Governor Hochul for helping New Yorkers enjoy the beauty of our parks by signing it into law."

Smoking in the designated areas listed above will be punishable with a civil fine of \$50.