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Corporations, State Records & UCC

New York State
Department of State
DIVISION OF CORPORATIONS, STATE RECORDS AND UNIFORM COMMERCIAL CODE
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99 Washington Ave.
Albany, NY 12231-0001
dos.ny.gov

Local Law Filing

Pursuant to Municipal Home Rule Law §27

Local Law Number ascribed by the legislative body of the local government listed below:

Proposed No. 6 of the year 20 26

Local Law Title: A Local Law to create a new Chapter 175 entitled Sleeping and Camping on Public Property

Be it enacted by the Town Board **of the**
(Name of Legislative Body)

☐ **County** ☐ **City** ☑ **Town** ☐ **Village**
(Select one)

of Thompson **as follows on the attached pages:**
(Name of Local Government)

For Office Use Only

Department of State Local Law Index Number: _____ **of the year 20** ____

(The local law number assigned by the Department of State for indexing purposes may be different from the local law number ascribed by the legislative body of the local government.)

Town of Thompson

Proposed

Local Law No. 6 of the year 2026

A Local Law to add new Chapter 175 of the Town Code entitled "Sleeping and Camping on Public Property"

Be it enacted by the Town Board of the Town of Thompson as follows:

Chapter 175 - SLEEPING AND CAMPING ON PUBLIC PROPERTY

§ 175-1. Legislative intent.

It is the intent of this Chapter 175 to prohibit camping or sleeping in Town parks, public sidewalks, public streets, alleyways, or any other public right-of-way. Camping or sleeping in these areas creates public health and safety concerns and interferes with the ability of others to use these spaces for their intended purposes. It also places individuals who are camping or sleeping on public property at risk and contributes to conditions that compromise overall community health, sanitation, and safe access for Town residents, workers, and visitors.

§ 175-2. Definitions.

Unless the context requires otherwise, the following definitions apply:

CAMPSITE — Means:

A. Any place where chairs and/or blankets (or other items to sit on) are placed for the purpose of sleeping, sitting and/or laying for overnight purposes. Notwithstanding the foregoing, chairs and/or blankets (or other items to sit on) may be placed on Town owned park property for purposes of attending a scheduled public event authorized or permitted by the Town, placed no more than one hour prior to a scheduled public event at that park and removed no later than 30 minutes after the end of such scheduled public event authorized or permitted by the Town (but in any event no later than 9:00 p.m. the same day as the scheduled public event authorized or permitted by the Town); and/or

B. Any place where bedding, sleeping bag, or other material used for sleeping, sitting, laying and/or bedding purposes, and/or

C. Any stove or fire is placed, established, or maintained for the purpose of sleeping or maintaining a temporary place to live, whether or not such place incorporates the use of any tent, lean-to, shack, or any other structure, or any vehicle or part thereof.

PROHIBITED PUBLIC PLACES — Means any place not designated as a public campground pursued to federal, state, or local statute or ordinance, and shall include the following:

A. Public streets, sidewalks, alleyways, passages, and rights of way;

B. Publicly owned streets;

C. Public parks;

D. Public parking lots, whether publicly owned or private;

E. Public landscaped areas, whether publicly or privately owned and maintained pursuant to a public easement or agreement for public maintenance;

F. Private property that is readily accessible to the general public or is otherwise open to common general use;

G. Vacant lots that are readily accessible to the general public or otherwise open to common general use or that attract activity that may pose a threat to public health and safety; and

H. Drainage culverts and basins.

TO CAMP — Means to set up or to remain in or at a campsite.

§ 175-3. Sleeping or camping prohibited on sidewalks, streets, alleyways, or within doorways or in prohibited public places.

A. No person may sleep or camp on public sidewalks, streets, alleyways, or other prohibited public places at any time, as a matter of individual and public safety.

B. No person may sleep or camp in any pedestrian or vehicular entrance to public or private property abutting a public sidewalk.

C. In addition to any other remedy provided by law, any person found in violation of this Section may be immediately removed from the premises.

§ 175-4. Camping prohibited.

No person may occupy a campsite in or upon on any sidewalk, street, alley, lane, public right of way, park, bench, or any other prohibited public place, or under any bridge or viaduct, unless (i) otherwise specifically authorized by this Chapter 175, (ii) by a formal declaration of the Town Board in emergency circumstances, or (iii) upon Town Board resolution, the Town may exempt a special event from the prohibitions of this Section, if the Town Board finds such exemption to be in the public interest and consistent with Town goals and notices. Any conditions imposed will include a condition requiring that the applicant provide evidence of adequate insurance coverage and agree to indemnify the Town for any liability, damage or expense incurred by the Town as a result of activities of the applicant. Any findings by the Town Board shall also specify the exact dates and locations covered by the exemption.

§ 175-5. Removal of campsite on public property.

Upon discovery of a campsite on public property, removal of the campsite by the Enforcement Officers/ Departments may occur under the following circumstances:

A. Prior to removing the campsite, the Town shall post a notice 24 hours in advance at the campsite.

B. At the time a twenty-four-hour notice is posted, the Town shall inform a local social services agency of the location of the campsite.

C. After the twenty-four-hour notice period has passed, the Enforcement Officers/Departments are authorized to remove the campsite and all personal property related thereto.

§ 175-6. Disposition and release of personal property.

For purposes of this Chapter 175, "personal property" means any item reasonably recognizable as belonging to a person and having apparent utility or monetary value. Items having no apparent utility or monetary value, and items in an unsanitary condition, may be immediately discarded. Weapons, drug paraphernalia, items appearing to be stolen, and evidence of a crime may be retained as evidence by the Sullivan County Sheriff or New York State Police, as applicable, until an alternate disposition is determined. All personal property removed from the campsite which is not retained, disposed of, or held as evidence (as provided above) shall be stored by the Sullivan County Sheriff or New York State Police, as applicable, for a minimum of 30 days, during which time it shall be reasonably available for and released to an individual confirming ownership.

§ 175-7. Enforcement.

This Chapter 175 shall be enforced by any officer of the Sullivan County Sheriff, the Town Code Enforcement Officer, or the New York State Police, or any other police officer authorized as such by the State of New York; for purposes of this Chapter 175, all of the foregoing shall be referred to as "Enforcement Officers/Departments" in this Chapter 175.

§ 175-8. Penalties.

A violation of this Chapter 175 or any provision thereof shall be deemed an offense punishable by a fine up to $500, or imprisonment up to 15 days, or both.

§ 175-9. Severability.

If any clause, sentence, paragraph, subdivision, section or part thereof this Local Law shall be adjudged by any court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, such judgment, decree or order shall not affect, impair or invalidate the remainder thereof but shall be confined in its operation to the clause, sentence, paragraph, subdivision, section or part thereof directly involved in the controversy in which such judgment, decree or order shall have been rendered and the remainder of this Local Law shall not be affected thereby and shall remain in full force and effect.

§ 175-10. Effective Date.

This Local Law shall take effect immediately upon filing with the Secretary of State.

LOCAL LAW FILING

(Complete the certification in the paragraph that applies to the filing of this local law and strike out that which is not applicable.)

1. (Final adoption by local legislative body only)

I hereby certify that the local law annexed hereto ascribed as local law No. _____ of 2026 of the Town of Thompson was duly passed by the Town Board on _____, 2026 in accordance with the applicable provisions of law.

2. (Passage by local legislative body with approval, no disapproval or repassage after disapproval by Elective Chief Executive Officer*)

I hereby certify that the local law annexed, ascribed as local law No. ___ of 20___ of the County/City/Town/Town/Village of _____ was duly passed by the _____ on _____20___ and was (approved) (not approved) (repassed after disapproval) by the _____ on _____ and was deemed duly adopted on _____20___, in accordance with the applicable provisions of law.

3. (Final adoption by referendum)

I hereby certify that the local law annexed hereto, ascribed as local law No. ___ of 20___ of the County/City/Town/Town/Village of _____ was duly passed by the _____ on _____20___ and was (approved) (not approved) (repassed after disapproval) by the _____ on _____. Such local law was submitted to the people by reason of a (mandatory) (permissive) referendum, and received the affirmative vote of a majority of the qualified electors voting thereon at the (general) (special) (annual) election held on _____ 20___, in accordance with the applicable provisions of law.

4. (Subject to permissive referendum, and final adoption because no valid petition filed requesting referendum)

I hereby certify that the local law annexed hereto, ascribed as local law No. ___ of 20___ of the County/City/Town/Town/Village of _____ was duly passed by the _____ on _____20___ and was (approved) (not approved) (repassed after disapproval) by the _____ on _____. Such local law was subject to permissive referendum and no valid petition requesting such referendum was filed as of _____20___ in accordance with the applicable provisions of law.

* Elective Chief Executive Officer means or includes the chief executive officer of a county elected on a county-wide basis or, if there be none, chairman of the county legislative body, the mayor of a city or village or the supervisor of a town where such officer is vested with the power to approve or veto local laws or ordinances.

LOCAL LAW FILING

5. (City local law concerning Charter revision proposed by petition.)

I hereby certify that the local law annexed hereto, ascribed as local law No. ___ of 20___ of the City of _____ having submitted to referendum pursuant to the provisions of sections (36)(37) of the Municipal Home Rule Law, and having received the affirmative vote of a majority of the qualified electors of such city voting thereon at the (special)(general) election held on _____ 20___ became operative.

6. (County local law concerning adoption of Charter)

I hereby certify that the local law annexed hereto, ascribed as local law No. ___ of 20___ of the County of _____, State of New York, having been submitted to the electors at the General Election of November ____ 20___, pursuant to subdivisions 5 and 7 of section 33 of the Municipal Home Rule Law, and having received the affirmative vote of a majority of the qualified electors of the cities of said county as a unit and a majority of the qualified electors of the towns of said county considered as a unit voting at said general election, became operative.

(If any other authorized form of final adoption has been followed, please provide the appropriate certification.)

I further certify that I have compared the preceding local law with the original on file in this office and that the same is a correct transcript therefrom and of the whole of such original local law, and was finally adopted in the manner indicated in paragraph __1__ above.

_____

Clerk ~~of the county legislative body, city~~, Town, ~~village clerk or officer designated by local legislative body~~

Date: _____, 2026

(Certification to be executed by County Attorney, Corporation Counsel, Town Attorney, Village Attorney or other authorized Attorney of locality)

STATE OF NEW YORK
COUNTY OF SULLIVAN

I, the undersigned, do hereby certify that the foregoing local law contains the correct text and that all proper proceeding have been had or taken for the enactment of the local law annexed hereto.

Date: _____, 2026

_____

Attorney for Town of Thompson