

New York Business Journal

Hookah headache for bars targeted by Health Dept.

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Staff, *New York Business Journal*

The New York City Department of Health aims to shut down 13 hookah bars operating in Manhattan and Queens after an investigation found evidence they were violating the city's Smoke-Free Air Act.

Last November, the city had several New York University students gather shisha samples from the establishments, [all of which had tobacco in them](#), Gothamist reported. The Department of Health is expected to ask courts to approve revocation of the hookah bars' permits, the report said, after which they would be forced to close.

Separately, City Council member [Ydanis Rodriguez](#) has introduced a bill that [could put most hookah bars in the city out of business](#) by banning certain hookah-related sales at establishments that make most of their money from other types of sales, according to the New York Daily News. That is, if a restaurant makes more than 50 percent of its earnings from food and drink -- as many hookah bars do -- then it would not be allowed to also offer access to the pipes.

The proposed rule would also affect small grocery stores and other shops that have taken to selling hookah pipes and tobacco, the report said.

<http://www.bizjournals.com/newyork/news/2015/01/07/hookah-headache-for-bars-targeted-by-health-dept.html>