

N.Y. enacts pyrotech law aimed at preventing R.I.-type club fire

Copyright. InsuranceTimes™ © 2003 by M&S Communications, Inc. All rights reserved. November 25, 2003

ALBANY — The chances of a fire in New York like the one that killed 100 people at a Rhode Island nightclub in February are diminished under a new law, according to Gov. George Pataki. The bill requires the owner or lessee of an entertainment venue to get a permit from local government officials when indoor pyrotechnics are to be used. It also requires the filing of a written plan outlining details about the fireworks and their use, including the qualifications of the pyrotechnics operator. The measure requires sets, scenery and performers' clothing to be fire resistant in venues where indoor fireworks are planned and mandates that at least two fire extinguishers be at hand. The New York statute makes the unpermitted use of pyrotechnics that recklessly causes deaths or serious injuries a felony punishable by up to seven years in prison. The new statute took effect Nov. 1 outside New York City. The city's own fire codes govern the use of indoor pyrotechnics within the five boroughs. □