



Adopted

**Winter Meeting
December 2-6, 2003
Williamsburg, Virginia**

RESOLUTION

URGING STATES TO REVIEW THEIR PUBLIC HEALTH LAWS

WHEREAS, every state (territory) has enacted laws to allow for proper response by health officials to public health conditions; and

WHEREAS, the majority of those statutes were passed several decades ago, and, fortunately, have been seldom needed and therefore seldom used, and so are little known; and

WHEREAS, given changes in medical and public health circumstances, the status quo is no longer satisfactory; and

WHEREAS, with the ever increasing mobility of persons, animals and products between towns, states and nations, we have been increasing levels of concern regarding contagion and increasing numbers of public health incidents, such as those involving SARS and **Monkeypox** disease; and

WHEREAS, many of those statutes address limited and previously known health conditions, but are not flexible to address present medical and disease circumstances;

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved that the National Association of Attorneys General;

- 1) encourages states to undertake a review of their public health laws **and the Model State Public Health Act**, and to update those laws to reflect present circumstances; **and**
- 2) encourages the education of public health authorities and their counsel on the constitutional and statutory laws related to public health response to assure the best response and preparedness in an emergency; and
- 3) authorizes its Executive Director to transmit these views.