



# Senate

General Assembly

February Session, 2008

**File No. 531**

Senate Bill No. 421

*Senate, April 8, 2008*

The Committee on Judiciary reported through SEN. MCDONALD of the 27th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the bill ought to pass.

## ***AN ACT PROHIBITING THE POSSESSION OF TOBACCO BY MINORS.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Subsection (c) of section 53-344 of the general statutes is  
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*  
3 *October 1, 2008*):

4 (c) Any person under eighteen years of age who purchases or  
5 misrepresents such person's age to purchase tobacco in any form or  
6 possesses tobacco in any form in any public place shall be fined not  
7 more than fifty dollars for the first offense and not less than fifty  
8 dollars or more than one hundred dollars for each subsequent offense.  
9 For purposes of this subsection, "public place" means any area that is  
10 used or held out for use by the public whether owned or operated by  
11 public or private interests.



The following fiscal impact statement and bill analysis are prepared for the benefit of members of the General Assembly, solely for the purpose of information, summarization, and explanation, and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose:

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**OFA Fiscal Note**

**State Impact:**

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 09 \$	FY 10 \$
Judicial Dept.	GF - Revenue Gain	Less than 75,000	Less than 100,000

Note: GF=General Fund

**Municipal Impact:** None

**Explanation**

The bill prohibits the possession of tobacco in public places by any person seventeen years of age or younger. A violation is punishable by a fine of up to \$50 for a first offense and a fine of \$50 - \$100 for the second and any subsequent offenses. These fines would be payable by mail. Annual state revenues are anticipated to be less than \$100,000.

**The Out Years**

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would remain relatively stable in the future since fine amounts are set by statute.

**OLR Bill Analysis****SB 421*****AN ACT PROHIBITING THE POSSESSION OF TOBACCO BY MINORS.*****SUMMARY:**

This bill prohibits an individual under age 18 from possessing tobacco in any form in a public place. It imposes a fine of up to \$50 for the first offense and between \$50 and \$100 for each subsequent offense. The bill defines "public place" as any area used or held out for use by the public, whether owned or operated by public or private interests.

Current law requires purchasers of tobacco products to be age 18. Persons under age 18 who buy tobacco products or misrepresent their age to buy such products are subject to the same fines noted above.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2008

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Public Health Committee

Joint Favorable Change of Reference  
Yea 28 Nay 0 (03/14/2008)

Judiciary Committee

Joint Favorable  
Yea 42 Nay 1 (03/24/2008)