



March 18, 2016

Co-Chair John Fonfara  
Co-Chair Jeff Berger  
Senator Scott Frantz  
Representative Christopher Davis

Members of the Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee:

We are here today in **support** of H.B. 5624, AN ACT CONCERNING LICENSURE OF E-CIGARETTE SELLERS AND MANUFACTURERS.

This bill fixes what we believe was an unintended drafting error that occurred when the 2015 state budget was drafted.

This legislation is important because it specifies that employees of companies that hold a valid electronic nicotine delivery system certificate are not required to individually register.

What that means is that the employees who work in the 1,400 convenience stores (c-stores) that our members own and operate do not have to pay a \$400 per employee annual registration fee (with an additional one time per employee \$75 application fee).

Without this fix, the law seems to indicate that every person who works in our c-stores would be subject to these fees. Most businesses that sell e-cigarettes could never justify the cost of this registration if every employee were subject to it, and therefore would likely chose not to sell these products and forgo the fees altogether.

In addition to our support for the language contained in this bill, we ask that the word "person" be defined to include corporations. This addition would be consistent with other registrations (ie lottery, cigarette, etc.) that c-stores are required to get.

We would propose, simply, that the legislature clarify the current law to state that *"person" includes corporations (not their owners, and not their agents acting in the course of lawful employment) such that the applicant may be a corporate entity, and that the certificate may be issued directly to such corporate entity.* This is common practice for business licensures in CT and beyond, and would address the primary problem our members have encountered in the implementation of this law over the past few months.

Respectfully,

Christian A. Herb  
President