

Public Health Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: HB-5293

AN ACT CONCERNING THE SALE OF ELECTRONIC NICOTINE DELIVERY
Title: SYSTEMS AND VAPOR PRODUCTS.

Vote Date: 3/26/2018

Vote Action: Joint Favorable

PH Date: 3/20/2018

File No.:

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

Public Health Committee

REASONS FOR BILL:

To require retailers of e-cigarettes and vapor products to sell them to consumers only in a direct, face-to-face transaction, as is currently required for the sale of cigarettes and smokeless tobacco.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

None Submitted

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

CT State Medical Society

The members of the Connecticut State Medical Society (CSMS) and the Connecticut Chapter of the American College of Surgeons (CT ACS) support this proposal as it will help to decrease access to tobacco and nicotine products by our youth. There are irrefutable negative effects associated with the use of products containing nicotine, the number of deaths and the annual costs to our healthcare system and society.

The passage of House Bill 5293 will increase the age to twenty-one for individuals to purchase tobacco products and will require face-to-face interaction for purchase. The requirement for face-to-face sale and purchase of vapor products or nicotine delivery systems will prevent minors from using false information for online transactions. The age increase will reduce access to these deadly products by young adults during a period in their development when the possibility of becoming addicted to nicotine products is greater.

Margaret Watts, Executive Director, Southwest Regional Mental Health Board:

I urge the Public Health Committee to support HB 5293, which will protect public health, in particular the health of our teens. The passage of this bill will also align electronic nicotine delivery systems and vapor products with laws governing the purchase of alcohol.

The dangers of nicotine use are well researched and are said to be one of the most highly addictive substances, and that the younger the individual is when they begin using these products, the more likely it is for them to become addicted. The Public Health Committee is charged with protecting public health, so please support this bill.

Dr. Lynn Rapsilber, Connecticut Coalition of Advanced Practice Nurses:

The Connecticut Coalition of Advanced Practice Nurses is in full support of HB 5293. The passage of this bill will strengthen the law regarding the sale and purchase of electronic nicotine delivery systems and vapor products. Combining the contents of this bill with those of SB164, will reduce harm and protect the health of Connecticut's residents.

Jenna Lupi, Co-Chair, Advocacy Committee, CT Public Association (CPHA):

CPHA strongly support this bill as it would require a face-to-face interaction during the purchase of electronic nicotine delivery system and vapor products, as is required for the purchase of cigarettes. The mission of CPHA is to promote the exchange of knowledge in order to improve the practice of our professionals as well as the health and wellbeing of the residents of our state.

Globally, tobacco is recognized as one of the leading causes of preventable deaths, and has been a main focus of CPHA and the American Public Health Association. We have always supported laws that are aimed at protecting residents, and we align ourselves with the American Lung Association in believing that nicotine products are dangerous. We urge passage of this bill.

Pamela Mautte, President, CT Prevention Network (CPN)

For over 20 years, CPN has worked on comprehensive tobacco policies and programs, which resulted in the reduction of smoking rates for both youths and adults. Connecticut must uphold these reductions and continue to develop strong policies surrounding the use of tobacco products. CPN urges the committee to support passage of this legislation.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

None Submitted

Reported by: Beverley Henry

Date: 04/09/2018