Committee on Children  
JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: HB-5975
Title: AN ACT CONCERNING THE ONLINE SALE AND DELIVERY OF ELECTRONIC NICOTINE DELIVERY SYSTEMS AND VAPOR PRODUCTS.
Vote Date: 3/7/2019
Vote Action: Joint Favorable Substitute
PH Date: 2/28/2019
File No.: 

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SPONSORS OF BILL:
Committee on Children

REASONS FOR BILL:
To ban the online sale and delivery of electronic nicotine and vapor products to minors.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

Senator Eric Berthel:
Senator Berthel expressed his support for this bill. He mentioned that most websites online do not require identification or a signature when these products are delivered to minors. He also expressed that the rate of high school seniors vaping is similar to that of seniors smoking cigarettes 20 years ago. For these reasons he urges the committee to support this bill.

Miriam E. Delphin-Rittmon, Commissioner, State of Connecticut Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services:
The commissioner expressed her support for this bill. She mentioned that nicotine has many negative impacts on the adolescent brain such as altering normal development. These negative effects could have a major impact on a person for a lifetime. Miriam believes that this bill will prevent minors from obtaining these products which will be better for their health. For these reasons she supports this bill.

Representative Derek Slap:
Representative Slap testified in support of this bill. He mentioned that many advertisements depicting flavored vaping products are targeting vulnerable people who already have an addiction to nicotine. In order to keep children safe legislation restricting access to these products should be implemented.
NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

Connecticut Hospital Association:
The Connecticut Hospital Association expressed support for this bill with amended language. The association mentioned that smoking has negative impacts on the lives of people, especially minors. The association would like to see changes in the language of the bill in regards to the definition of vapor products. The definition is too broad and might prohibit people from being able to purchase therapeutic and medical products that they need. The association believes that this bill will improve the health of minors and urges the committee to make these necessary amendments that would clarify the intent of the bill.

Kathy Hanley, Connecticut Prevention Network:
Kathy expressed her support for this bill. She provided data that shows the use of e-cigarettes increasing among minors as compared to that of cigarettes. She also mentioned that students who smoke e-cigarettes by the time they start ninth grade are more likely to smoke cigarettes later on in life. She expressed that it is important to restrict access to these products to minors before the behavior becomes a habit.

Mary Jane M. Williams, CT Nurses Association:
Mary Jane expressed her support for this bill. She mentioned that nicotine could harm brain development in minors. She also mentioned that e-cigarette users are at an increased risk of starting to smoke and continuing to do so throughout the course of their lives. For these reasons she supports this bill.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

Leslea Snyder, State Government Affairs, JUUL Labs:
Leslea expressed her opposition to this bill. She mentioned that JUUL labs are working on decreasing the use of cigarettes through the use of vaping products. She also mentioned that this company has age verification, which ensures that minors do not have access to these products. The main source of vaping products for minors is through social ties. JUUL Labs is focused on strengthening its limits to these devices. Leslea mentioned that this bill would reduce access to vaping products for adults while being ineffective in reducing smoking among minors.

Reported by: Dea Ballij                                      Date: 03/18/2019