Bill No.: HB-6404
Title: AN ACT PROHIBITING THE SALE OF FLAVORED ELECTRONIC CIGARETTE LIQUID.
Vote Date: 3/7/2019
Vote Action: Joint Favorable Substitute
PH Date: 2/14/2019

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SPONSORS OF BILL:
Committee on Children

REASONS FOR BILL:
To ban the sale of flavored e-cigarette liquid.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

Representative Maria Horn:
Representative Horn expressed her support for this bill. She mentioned that e-cigarettes are associated with an increased risk of smoking among young people. She also mentioned that e-cigarettes are addictive and can have negative consequences on one’s health. She urges the committee to support this bill.

Representative Cristin McCarthy Vahey:
Representative McCarthy Vahey expressed her support for this bill. She mentioned that flavored e-cigarettes are appealing to youth which can lead to addiction in the future. She also mentioned introduction of e-cigarettes has reversed the progress the state has made in lowering teen smoking rates. For these reasons she urges the committee to support this bill.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

Nancy Alderman, Environment and Human Health Inc.
Nancy expressed her support for this bill. She mentioned that e-cigarettes contain toxins that can be detrimental to a person’s health. She believes e-cigarettes need to be regulated since they attract a young audience, and can have negative consequences on youth.
Suchitra Krishnan-Sarin, Ph.D., Psychiatry Professor, Yale School of Medicine:
Suchitra expressed her support for this bill. She mentioned that e-cigarette use is higher among middle schoolers. She also mentioned that the long term effects of e-cigarette use are not yet known which can be problematic for youth. She expressed that flavors make e-cigarettes more appealing and thus more prevalent among youth. For these reasons she urges the committee to support this bill.

Seth Lapuk, American Heart Association:
Seth expressed his support for this bill. He mentioned that flavors make e-cigarettes more appealing to children which lead to a higher rate of tobacco use among those who have used e-cigarettes before. He also mentioned data shows if a person does not smoke by the age of 18 they most likely never will smoke. Therefore, it is crucial to intervene in the adolescent years to prevent children from being addicted in the future.

Frank W. Maletz, MD FACS, HEALTHspital Foundation CT:
Frank expressed his support for this bill. He mentioned that the nicotine present in vaping products is very addictive. He also mentioned that manufacturers are exploiting young children for economic gain while disguising the negative impacts of nicotine on the brain through flavored e-cigarettes. For these reasons he urges the committee to support this bill.

Leanne Theodore, Director of Human Services, Stonington Human Services:
Leanne expressed her support for this bill. She mentioned that usage of vaping products has increased among the youth. She also mentioned that the flavor choices have led to a youth vaping epidemic in our society. For these reasons she urges the committee to support this bill.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

Jake Butcher, State Affairs Manager, Vapor Technology Association:
Jake expressed his opposition to this bill. He mentioned that the Vapor Technology Association employs thousands of people in Connecticut, and limiting vaping products would have negative consequences on businesses in Connecticut. He also mentioned that although there are health concerns related to vaping products, they are 95% safer than combustible cigarettes. Jake expressed that e-cigarette use is associated with lower rates of smoking in the UK. He mentioned that a January 2018 study published in Tobacco Control found that transitioning from cigarettes to vaping products prevents 1.6 million to 6.6 million premature deaths annually in the United States. For these reasons he urges the committee to reject this bill.

Gregory Conley, President, American Vaping Association:
Gregory expressed his opposition to this bill. He mentioned that smokers who used vaping products were more likely to quit smoking than those who used conventional methods. He also mentioned that people who use flavored vaping products are twice as likely to quit smoking tobacco. He believes that Connecticut should enforce its laws on banning the sale of nicotine and tobacco products to minors without including adults in this ban. For these reasons he urges the committee to reject this bill.

Anthony Hemsley, Head of Corporate Affairs, Communications-JT International U.S.A. Inc.
Anthony expressed his opposition to this bill. He mentioned that there is no evidence a wholesale ban on flavored e-cigarettes would decrease usage of these products among the youth. He also mentioned that banning these products serves as a gateway for criminals to start selling them which will hurt small businesses in the state. Anthony expressed that the state would also lose excise and sales tax revenues if these products are banned. He proposes that the state should consider mandating ID checks instead of a wholesale ban on these products.

**Charles Merrill:**
Charles expressed his opposition to this bill. He mentioned that e-cigarettes have helped him quit smoking, and taxing them would prevent people from accessing alternative options to smoking. He also mentioned that e-cigarettes are 99% less dangerous than smoking. For these reasons he urges the committee to oppose this bill.

**Martin Pazzani, Silver City Vapors:**
Martin expressed his opposition to this bill. He mentioned that vaping is 95% safer than smoking. He also mentioned that flavors prevent people from relapsing, and thus banning the flavors would cause more people to smoke. He expressed that if flavors are banned people will be encouraged to buy the individual ingredients and make vaping products themselves. For these reasons he urges the committee to oppose this bill.

**Kristen Szabo:**
Kristen expressed her opposition to this bill. She mentioned that e-cigarettes helped her quit smoking. She also mentioned that e-cigarettes are healthier than smoking. She expressed that these products are meant to be enjoyed by adults even though children gain access to them. Banning these products would ban them for the adults as well. For these reasons she urges the committee to oppose this bill.

Reported by:  Dea Ballij  
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