

---

---

## **OLR Bill Analysis**

### **HB 5305**

#### ***AN ACT CONCERNING TOBACCO BARS.***

#### **SUMMARY**

This bill allows the establishment of additional tobacco bars to allow smoking indoors, including the smoking of e-cigarettes. It also allows tobacco bars to expand in size or change locations, which is prohibited under current law.

Under current law, only tobacco bars with an alcoholic liquor permit that generated 10% or more of their total annual gross income from onsite tobacco product sales and onsite humidor rentals in (1) 2002 can allow smoking indoors and (2) 2015 can allow indoor vaping of e-cigarettes. By law, "tobacco product" means any substance that contains tobacco, including cigarettes, cigars, pipe tobacco, or chewing tobacco.

The bill allows additional tobacco bars that hold alcoholic liquor permits and begin operating on or after October 1, 2021, to permit smoking indoors or indoor vaping if they meet the following requirements:

1. are located in a stand-alone building or, if connected to another building, use their own heating, ventilation, or air conditioning system to prevent co-mingling of air;
2. have a walk-in humidor on the premises; or
3. generate 51% or more of their total annual gross income in a calendar year from onsite tobacco product sales and humidor rentals.

Under the bill, tobacco bars that allow (1) smoking indoors cannot be located within a five-mile radius of any existing tobacco bar and (2)

indoor vaping cannot be located within a three-mile radius of any existing tobacco bar, unless municipal zoning allows it.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2021

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

General Law Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 18 Nay 1 (02/16/2021)