

Public Health Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: HB-6730

AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH'S
RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING THE TOBACCO AND HEALTH TRUST
FUND AND THE REQUIREMENT TO CHECK IDENTIFICATION PRIOR TO

Title: SELLING CIGARETTES OR TOBACCO PRODUCTS.

Vote Date: 3/20/2023

Vote Action: Joint Favorable Substitute

PH Date: 3/13/2023

File No.:

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

The Public Health Committee.

REASONS FOR BILL:

The overriding goal of this bill is the reduction of tobacco and nicotine use in all forms. The bill requires funding be directed to programs that use evidence-based best practices to develop objectives, including state and community interventions, surveillance and evaluation. The bill requires the board, which is responsible for disbursing funds annually, to prioritize funding comprehensive tobacco and nicotine control programs. The bill also repeals the law that requires ID checks on every person purchasing tobacco and/or nicotine products and retains the current law that gives the seller discretion in requiring that they check if the person appears to be under 30.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

Manisha Juthani, MD, Commissioner, CT Department of Public Health (DPH):

The Commissioner believes it is critical that our prevention and cessation initiatives remain responsive to all tobacco and nicotine products. Comprehensive programs aim to reduce the appeal and acceptability of these products. We should employ the Center for Disease Control (CDC) best practices that show positive outcomes on the prevention and cessation of these products. The changes in this bill will help continue the progress toward reducing the impact of tobacco and nicotine in this state.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

Ruth Canovi, Director of Advocacy, American Lung Association (CT ALA):

Ms. Canovi believes that funding a robust state tobacco control program is a proven best practice to help reduce the use of tobacco products. Increasing the expenditure to \$22.7 million, as prescribed in this bill, brings Connecticut up to the minimum recommended funding level and demonstrates the state's commitment to reducing tobacco use. Ms. Canovi also believes that raising cigarette taxes is a particularly effective method for reducing young people using tobacco products.

Bryte Johnson, CT Government relations Director, American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network (ACS/CAN):

Mr. Johnson notes that after years of decline, we are seeing sharp increases in youth tobacco use nationally, largely due to e-cigarette use. Yet, many of these youth do not identify these products as tobacco, nor do they see it as harmful. Mr. Johnson also reports that today's cigarettes are more deadly than ever. HB 6730 provides a clearer roadmap for the future of tobacco control in Connecticut and an opportunity to provide adequate and sustainable funding to preserve continuity of services.

Others in Support of This Bill

Jamie Dudyak, MSW, MPH Student, UConn

Melanie Sue Collins, Pulmonologist, CT Children's Hospital

Margaret Guerrera, Board of Directors, CT Society for Respiratory Care

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

There was no testimony in opposition to this bill.

Reported by: David Rackliffe, Asst. Clerk

Date: 3/30/2023