



**Connecticut Department of Public Health**

**Testimony Presented Before the Committee on General Law**

**January 31, 2023**

**Commissioner Manisha Juthani, MD  
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**Senate Bill No. 905, An Act Concerning Alcoholic Liquor and Tobacco Bars**

The Department of Public Health (DPH) opposes sections 18 and 19 of Senate Bill 905, which would allow for the establishment of new tobacco bars and for existing tobacco bars to expand or change location.

Connecticut's Clean Indoor Air Act has helped residents both to reduce their own smoking and to quit their tobacco use; tobacco use cost Connecticut \$2.0 billion in health care costs alone in 2009. Smoking and tobacco use cause a wide range of negative health effects. Aside from the well-established dangers of direct smoke inhalation, the harm caused by exposure to secondhand smoke is also extensive and well-documented. The US Surgeon General has determined that there is no safe level of exposure to secondhand smoke. Secondhand smoke contains more than 7,000 chemicals, hundreds of which are toxic and about 70 can cause cancer. The recent expansion of the Connecticut Clean Indoor Air Act that included all small workplaces was made both to protect employees from this harmful exposure as well as protect visitors and neighboring businesses.

Even bars with their own ventilation system pose a threat to connected businesses; the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE), the international standard-setting organization for indoor air quality and ventilation, reiterates their position that the only way to eliminate exposure is to ban all smoking and vaping activity inside buildings. Ventilation systems do not adequately protect from secondhand smoke exposure. In addition, smoke-free environments help to prevent young adults from starting to use tobacco, and support smokers who are trying to quit.

Thank you for your consideration of this information. DPH encourages committee members to reach out with any questions.

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## Reference Documents:

- 1) U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. CT Fact Sheet. Available at <https://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/stateandcommunity/state-fact-sheets/connecticut/>
- 2) U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. *The Health Consequences of Smoking-50 Years of Progress: A Report of the Surgeon General*. 2014.
- 3) U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. *The Health Consequences of Involuntary Exposure to Tobacco Smoke: A Report to the Surgeon General*. 2006.
- 4) National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine. 2018. *Public Health Consequences of E-Cigarettes*. Washington, DC: The National Academies Press. doi: 10.17226/24952.
- 5) American Society of Heating, Refrigeration and Air Conditioning Engineers, Inc. *ASHRAE Position Document on Environmental Tobacco Smoke*. Reaffirmed June 2020, Expires June 2023.
- 6) U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. *E-Cigarette Use Among Youth and Young Adults: A Report of the Surgeon General*. 2016
- 7) U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Preventing Chronic Disease: Public Health Research, Practice, and Policy: Exposure to Secondhand Smoke 2011-2019. Volume 103, September 2020.

## Relevant Studies:

- a) Kosmider L, Sobczak A, Fik M, Knysak J, Zaciera M, Kurek J, Goniewicz ML. Carbonyl compounds in electronic cigarette vapors: effects of nicotine solvent and battery output voltage. *Nicotine & Tobacco Research* 2014;16(10):1319–26.
- b) Laugesen M. Nicotine and toxicant yield ratings of electronic cigarette brands in New Zealand. *New Zealand Medical Journal* 2015;128(1411):77–82.
- c) O’Connell G, Colard S, Cahours X, Pritchard JD. An assessment of indoor air quality before, during and after unrestricted use of e-cigarettes in a small room. *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health* 2015;12(5):4889–907.
- d) Offermann FJ. Chemical emissions from e-cigarettes: direct and indirect (passive) exposures. *Building and Environment* 2015;93(Part 1):101–5. Oh JA, Shin HS. Identification and quantification of several contaminated compounds in replacement liquids of electronic cigarettes by gas chromatography-mass spectrometry. *Journal of Chromatographic Science* 2015;53(6):841–8.

## More Information:

1. American’s for Nonsmokers’ Rights: [Home - American Nonsmokers' Rights Foundation | no-smoke.org](http://www.no-smoke.org)

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