

2020 KEY LEGISLATIVE ISSUES

PROHIBIT THE SALES OF FLAVORED ELECTRONIC SMOKING DEVICES THAT HAVE NON-TOBACCO AROMAS AND TASTES

Prohibition of Flavored Tobacco Products

We support **HB0003** and **SB0054** that prohibits the sales of flavored electronic smoking devices that have non-tobacco aromas and tastes. We also support **SB0003** which increases the taxes on cigarettes, other tobacco products and electronic smoking devices and allocates the funds to activities aimed at reducing tobacco use.

- **Relevance:** This bill is critically relevant right now with increasing numbers of youth participating in e-cigarette usage. Among middle and high school students, over 5 million were current e-cigarette users in 2019 and about 1 million were using e-cigarettes daily. 81% of youth e-cigarette users said that the availability of appealing flavors was the main reason for use.¹
- **E-Cigarette Harm:** Research has found that e-cigarette use has been associated with increased risk of chronic cough, phlegm, bronchitis, pneumonia, asthma, and cancer. Certain flavor compounds pose particular cell toxicity risks and can cause cell death. A specific mint flavor source, pulegone, is a known carcinogen that has been reduced in menthol tobacco products and banned as a food additive yet is used substantially for e-liquid.² Most e-cigarettes have nicotine, which is highly addictive and harms adolescent brain development. Some e-cigarettes that have been marketed to have no nicotine have been found to contain some.³
- **Public Health Concern:** The Surgeon General released a statement calling e-cigarette use particularly among youth “a public health concern that warrants immediate and coordinated action,” specifically citing the increase in use over the past few years and the health risks associated with e-cigarettes. The statement states that we must apply strategies to prevent e-cigarette use.⁴
- Prohibiting flavored electronic smoking devices and increasing regulations for electronic smoking devices disincentivizes youth from accessing and participating in electronic smoking device usage to protect their health.

1 <https://www.fda.gov/tobacco-products/products-ingredients-components/vaporizers-e-cigarettes-and-other-electronic-nicotine-delivery-systems-ends>

2 <https://truthinitiative.org/research-resources/emerging-tobacco-products/e-cigarettes-facts-stats-and-regulations#health>

3 https://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/basic_information/e-cigarettes/about-e-cigarettes.html

4 https://e-cigarettes.surgeongeneral.gov/documents/2016_SGR_Full_Report_non-508.pdf