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Senate Finance Committee
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Senate Bill 249 – *Tobacco Product Licensees – Additional Licensure for Electronic Smoking Devices*
POSITION: SUPPORT

The Maryland State Medical Society (MedChi), the largest physician organization in Maryland, **supports** Senate Bill 249.

Senate Bill 249 requires businesses that sell electronic smoking devices, such as e-cigarettes and vapes, to hold a specific county license for those electronic products instead of automatically using their traditional tobacco license. It removes the old provision that allows tobacco license holders to sell electronic devices under the same license but waives the extra license fee for existing tobacco licensees who apply as retailers or vape shop vendors. Existing tobacco license holders can continue selling electronic smoking devices under their current authority until their license expires, after which they must comply with the new requirements.

Electronic cigarettes and vape use are a public health epidemic. Requiring specific licensure for electronic smoking devices serves to benefit our communities with additional oversight on vape products, especially as they are becoming increasingly popular amongst minors. Compliance regulations for electronic smoking device vendors under the new specific license ensures that those vendors are taking the necessary steps to ensure that electronic smoking devices, and tobacco products in general, do not end up in the hands of minors. These precautions include requirements for merchants to post notices warning minors against attempting to purchase tobacco and to obtain proof of age for would-be purchasers.

MedChi urges a favorable report on Senate Bill 249.

For more information call:

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