SUPPORT SB 248 TO STRENGTHEN ENFORCEMENT OF E-CIGARETTE LAWS

Although Texas recently raised the sale age for cigarettes and e-cigarettes to 21, statutory tools for enforcing the sale age are outdated and ineffective. As a result, Texas youth continue to be exposed to the addictive properties of nicotine and its dangerous effects on adolescent brain development. In addition to developing a harmful addiction, minors using e-cigarettes may be more likely to smoke cigarettes later in life and are exposed to potentially fatal diseases such as e-cigarette or vaping product use-associated lung injury (EVALI). Further, state taxpayers are likely to see their tax bills rise to pay for the direct and indirect health care costs associated with treating smoking-related diseases.

STAND UP TO THE TOBACCO INDUSTRY’S PREDATORY MARKETING, AND SPARE A GENERATION FROM THE GRIP OF NICOTINE ADDICTION.

HOW CSSB 248 CAN HELP

The committee substitute for Senate Bill (CSSB) 248 updates statutes to increase retailer compliance, deter underage sales, and align regulations between e-cigarettes and tobacco.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Problem</th>
<th>CSSB 248 Answer</th>
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<tr>
<td>E-cigarette-only retailers don’t need a permit; many vape shops escape enforcement.</td>
<td>Requires e-cigarette retailers to obtain a permit similar to the tobacco retailer permit.</td>
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<td>The state has no comprehensive list of e-cigarette retailers.</td>
<td>Creates a list of permitted retailers to guide the state comptroller’s enforcement.</td>
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<td>E-cigarette retailers aren’t subject to penalties for selling to kids.</td>
<td>Adds permitted e-cigarette retailers to the existing penalty structure for tobacco retailers.</td>
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<td>Penalties for tobacco retailers that sell to minors are insufficient to deter violations.</td>
<td>Ensures repeat violators face consequences for selling tobacco and e-cigarettes to minors.</td>
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1. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Quick Facts on the Risks of E-cigarettes for Kids, Teens, and Young Adults.
4. Texas Department of State Health Services. Vaping.
The Texas Public Health Coalition is a coalition of health professional organizations and health-focused organizations dedicated to disease prevention and health promotion.

MEMBERS

Alzheimer’s Association
American Heart Association
American Lung Association
Blue Cross Blue Shield of Texas
Children’s Hospital Association of Texas
The Cooper Institute
Harris County Public Health
The Immunization Partnership
It’s Time Texas
March of Dimes
Methodist Healthcare Ministries
Texas Academy of Family Physicians
Texas Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics
Texas Academy of Physician Assistants
Texas Association of City & County Health Officials

Texas Association of Community Health Centers
Texas Chapter of the American College of Physicians Services
Texas eHealth Alliance
Texas Health Institute
Texas Hospital Association
Texas Medical Association
Texas Nurses Association
Texas Oral Health Coalition, Inc.
Texas Osteopathic Medical Association
Texas Pediatric Society
Texas Physicians for Social Responsibility
Texas Public Health Association
Texas Renal Coalition
Texas School Nurses Organization
Texas State Alliance of YMCAs
United Ways of Texas

RESOURCES

CANCER PREVENTION AND RESEARCH INSTITUTE OF TEXAS
MD ANDerson CANCER CENTER
MICHAEL AND SUSAN DELL CENTER FOR HEALTHY LIVING
PARTNERSHIP FOR A HEALTHY TEXAS
TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF STATE HEALTH SERVICES