

# HOUSE BILL REPORT

## SB 6337

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**As Reported by House Committee On:**  
Health Care

**Title:** An act relating to tobacco product sampling.

**Brief Description:** Prohibiting tobacco product sampling.

**Sponsors:** Senators Oke, Haugen, Eide, Swecker, B. Sheldon, Hargrove, Spanel, Prentice, Jacobsen, Fraser, Gardner and Rasmussen.

**Brief History:**

**Committee Activity:**

Health Care: 2/25/02, 2/28/02 [DP].

### Brief Summary of Bill

- Distribution of samples of tobacco products to members of the public is prohibited.

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### HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH CARE

**Majority Report:** Do pass. Signed by 9 members: Representatives Cody, Chair; Schual-Berke, Vice Chair; Campbell, Ranking Minority Member; Ballasiotes, Conway, Darneille, Edwards, Ruderman and Skinner.

**Minority Report:** Do not pass. Signed by 2 members: Representatives Alexander and Benson.

**Staff:** Dave Knutson (786-7146).

### Background:

A marketing technique used by cigarette makers is the distribution of free samples. The business of sampling is regulated by the Liquor Control Board. Upon payment of an annual fee, a sampler may distribute tobacco samples in authorized areas. These areas include: areas where children under the age of 18 are denied admission, in a store or concession to which a retailer's license has been issued, or at or adjacent to a production, repair, or outdoor construction site or facility. Samplers are prohibited from distributing

samples within 500 feet of a playground, school, or other facility being used primarily by persons under 18 years of age.

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**Summary of Bill:**

Distribution of samples of tobacco products to members of the public is prohibited. Various provisions of the laws regulating this practice are deleted or repealed.

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**Appropriation:** None.

**Fiscal Note:** Requested on February 27, 2002.

**Effective Date:** Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.

**Testimony For:** It is too easy for children to gain access to tobacco products through the practice of distributing free tobacco samples. This practice should be banned.

**Testimony Against:** The existing law is a compromise that has worked well for the past nine years. There is no compelling reason to change current law.

**Testified:** (In support) Senator Oke, prime sponsor; Karen McDonell; Rick Phillips, Liquor Control Board; Nick Federici, American Lung Association of Washington; Paul Zemann, Public Health-Seattle KingCounty; and Dave Horn, Office of the Attorney General.

(Oppose) Stu Halsan, US Tobacco Public Affairs; Tim Corfield; T. K. Bentler, RJ Reynolds; and Mark Triplett, Smokeless Tobacco Association of America.