
SENATE BILL 6048

State of Washington

65th Legislature

2018 Regular Session

By Senators Kuderer, O'Ban, Rivers, Saldaña, Chase, Carlyle, Bailey, Darneille, Lias, Keiser, Frockt, Dhingra, King, Pedersen, Hunt, Wellman, and Mullet; by request of Attorney General and Department of Health

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1 AN ACT Relating to protecting youth from tobacco products and
2 vapor products by increasing the minimum legal age of sale of tobacco
3 and vapor products; amending RCW 26.28.080, 70.155.005, 70.155.010,
4 70.345.010, 70.155.020, 70.345.070, 70.345.100, 70.155.030, and
5 70.155.120; and providing an effective date.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

7 **Sec. 1.** RCW 26.28.080 and 2016 1st sp.s. c 38 s 1 are each
8 amended to read as follows:

9 (1) (~~Every~~) A person who sells or gives, or permits to be sold
10 or given, to any person under the age of (~~eighteen~~) twenty-one
11 years any cigar, cigarette, cigarette paper or wrapper, tobacco in
12 any form, or a vapor product is guilty of a gross misdemeanor.

13 (2) It is not a defense to a prosecution for a violation of this
14 section that the person acted, or was believed by the defendant to
15 act, as agent or representative of another.

16 (3) For the purposes of this section, "vapor product" has the
17 same meaning as provided in RCW 70.345.010.

18 **Sec. 2.** RCW 70.155.005 and 1993 c 507 s 1 are each amended to
19 read as follows:

1 (1) The legislature finds that chapter ..., Laws of 2018 (this
2 act) furthers the public health, safety, and welfare by reducing
3 youth access to addictive and harmful products.

4 (2) While present state law prohibits the sale and distribution
5 of tobacco and vapor products to ((minors)) youth under the age of
6 eighteen, youth obtain ((tobacco)) these products with ease.
7 ((Availability and lack of enforcement put tobacco products in the
8 hands of youth.))

9 (3) The legislature recognizes that many people who purchase
10 cigarettes for minors are between the ages of eighteen to twenty. By
11 decreasing the number of eligible buyers in high school, raising the
12 minimum legal age to sell tobacco and vapor products will decrease
13 the access of students to tobacco products. According to the 2014
14 healthy youth survey, forty-one percent of tenth graders say it is
15 "sort of easy" to "very easy" to get cigarettes. Nationally, among
16 youth who smoke, more than twice as many get their cigarettes from
17 social sources than from a store or vending machine.

18 (4) The legislature recognizes that ninety-five percent of
19 smokers start by the age of twenty-one.

20 (5) The legislature recognizes that jurisdictions across the
21 country are increasing the age of sale for tobacco products to
22 twenty-one. More than two hundred localities in fourteen states have
23 raised the minimum legal smoking age to twenty-one. In June 2015, the
24 state of Hawaii became the first state in the nation to pass
25 legislation increasing the smoking age to twenty-one. California
26 followed in 2016.

27 (6) The legislature recognizes the scientific report issued by
28 the national institute of medicine, one of the most prestigious
29 scientific authorities in the United States, which predicted that
30 increasing the age of sale for tobacco products in the United States
31 to twenty-one will significantly reduce the number of adolescents and
32 young adults who start smoking, reduce deaths from smoking, and
33 immediately improve the health of adolescents, young adults, young
34 mothers, and their children.

35 (7) The legislature recognizes the national institute of medicine
36 report predicted increasing the tobacco sale age will make the
37 greatest difference among those ages fifteen to seventeen, who will
38 no longer be able to pass for legal age and will have a harder time
39 getting tobacco products from older classmates and friends. The
40 national institute of medicine report also predicted raising the

1 minimum age for the sale of tobacco products in the United States to
2 twenty-one will, over time, reduce the smoking rate by about twelve
3 percent and smoking-related deaths by ten percent.

4 (8) The legislature recognizes scientific study of the brain is
5 increasingly showing that the brain continues to be highly vulnerable
6 to addictive substances until age twenty-five. Nicotine adversely
7 affects the development of the cerebral cortex and hippocampus in
8 adolescents.

9 (9) The legislature recognizes that a strategy of increasing the
10 minimum legal age for alcohol was highly successful in reducing
11 adverse effects of alcohol consumption. A national drinking age of
12 twenty-one resulted in reduced alcohol consumption among youth,
13 decreased alcohol dependence, and has led to significant reductions
14 in drunk driving fatalities.

15 (10) The legislature recognizes that if the age of sale is raised
16 to twenty-one, eighteen to twenty year olds will likely substitute
17 other in-store purchases for cigarettes. The legislature recognizes
18 that when Needham, Massachusetts raised the smoking age to twenty-one
19 in 2005, no convenience stores went out of business.

20 (11) The legislature recognizes that reducing the youth smoking
21 rate will save lives and reduce health care costs. Every year, two
22 billion eight hundred ten million dollars in health care costs can be
23 directly attributed to tobacco use in Washington. Smoking-caused
24 government expenditures cost every Washington household eight hundred
25 twenty-one dollars per year.

26 (12) Federal law requires states to enforce laws prohibiting sale
27 and distribution of tobacco products to minors in a manner that can
28 reasonably be expected to reduce the extent to which the products are
29 available to minors. It is imperative to effectively reduce the sale,
30 distribution, and availability of tobacco products to minors.

31 **Sec. 3.** RCW 70.155.010 and 2009 c 278 s 1 are each amended to
32 read as follows:

33 The definitions set forth in RCW 82.24.010 shall apply to this
34 chapter. In addition, for the purposes of this chapter, unless
35 otherwise required by the context:

36 (1) "Board" means the Washington state liquor (~~control~~) and
37 cannabis board.

38 (2) "Internet" means any computer network, telephonic network, or
39 other electronic network.

1 (3) (~~"Minor" refers to an individual who is less than eighteen~~
2 ~~years old.~~

3 ~~(4))~~ "Sample" means a tobacco product distributed to members of
4 the general public at no cost or at nominal cost for product
5 promotion purposes.

6 ~~((5))~~ (4) "Sampling" means the distribution of samples to
7 members of the public.

8 ~~((6))~~ (5) "Tobacco product" means a product that contains
9 tobacco and is intended for human use, including any product defined
10 in RCW 82.24.010(2) or 82.26.010(~~((1))~~) (21), except that for the
11 purposes of RCW 70.155.140 only, "tobacco product" does not include
12 cigars defined in RCW 82.26.010 as to which one thousand units weigh
13 more than three pounds.

14 (6) "Vapor product" has the same meaning as defined in RCW
15 70.345.010.

16 **Sec. 4.** RCW 70.345.010 and 2016 1st sp.s. c 38 s 4 are each
17 amended to read as follows:

18 The definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter
19 unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

20 (1) "Board" means the Washington state liquor and cannabis board.

21 (2) "Business" means any trade, occupation, activity, or
22 enterprise engaged in for the purpose of selling or distributing
23 vapor products in this state.

24 (3) "Child care facility" has the same meaning as provided in RCW
25 70.140.020.

26 (4) "Closed system nicotine container" means a sealed, prefilled,
27 and disposable container of nicotine in a solution or other form in
28 which such container is inserted directly into an electronic
29 cigarette, electronic nicotine delivery system, or other similar
30 product, if the nicotine in the container is inaccessible through
31 customary or reasonably foreseeable handling or use, including
32 reasonably foreseeable ingestion or other contact by children.

33 (5) "Delivery sale" means any sale of a vapor product to a
34 purchaser in this state where either:

35 (a) The purchaser submits the order for such sale by means of a
36 telephonic or other method of voice transmission, the mails or any
37 other delivery service, or the internet or other online service; or

38 (b) The vapor product is delivered by use of the mails or of a
39 delivery service. The foregoing sales of vapor products constitute a

1 delivery sale regardless of whether the seller is located within or
2 without this state. "Delivery sale" does not include a sale of any
3 vapor product not for personal consumption to a retailer.

4 (6) "Delivery seller" means a person who makes delivery sales.

5 (7) "Distributor" means any person who:

6 (a) Sells vapor products to persons other than ultimate
7 consumers; or

8 (b) Is engaged in the business of selling vapor products in this
9 state and who brings, or causes to be brought, into this state from
10 outside of the state any vapor products for sale.

11 (8) "Liquid nicotine container" means a package from which
12 nicotine in a solution or other form is accessible through normal and
13 foreseeable use by a consumer and that is used to hold soluble
14 nicotine in any concentration. "Liquid nicotine container" does not
15 include closed system nicotine containers.

16 (9) "Manufacturer" means a person who manufactures and sells
17 vapor products.

18 (10) "Minor" refers to an individual who is less than
19 (~~eighteen~~) twenty-one years old.

20 (11) "Person" means any individual, receiver, administrator,
21 executor, assignee, trustee in bankruptcy, trust, estate, firm,
22 copartnership, joint venture, club, company, joint stock company,
23 business trust, municipal corporation, the state and its departments
24 and institutions, political subdivision of the state of Washington,
25 corporation, limited liability company, association, society, any
26 group of individuals acting as a unit, whether mutual, cooperative,
27 fraternal, nonprofit, or otherwise.

28 (12) "Place of business" means any place where vapor products are
29 sold or where vapor products are manufactured, stored, or kept for
30 the purpose of sale.

31 (13) "Playground" means any public improved area designed,
32 equipped, and set aside for play of six or more children which is not
33 intended for use as an athletic playing field or athletic court,
34 including but not limited to any play equipment, surfacing, fencing,
35 signs, internal pathways, internal land forms, vegetation, and
36 related structures.

37 (14) "Retail outlet" means each place of business from which
38 vapor products are sold to consumers.

39 (15) "Retailer" means any person engaged in the business of
40 selling vapor products to ultimate consumers.

1 (16)(a) "Sale" means any transfer, exchange, or barter, in any
2 manner or by any means whatsoever, for a consideration, and includes
3 and means all sales made by any person.

4 (b) The term "sale" includes a gift by a person engaged in the
5 business of selling vapor products, for advertising, promoting, or as
6 a means of evading the provisions of this chapter.

7 (17) "School" has the same meaning as provided in RCW 70.140.020.

8 (18) "Self-service display" means a display that contains vapor
9 products and is located in an area that is openly accessible to
10 customers and from which customers can readily access such products
11 without the assistance of a salesperson. A display case that holds
12 vapor products behind locked doors does not constitute a self-service
13 display.

14 (19) "Vapor product" means any noncombustible product that may
15 contain nicotine and that employs a heating element, power source,
16 electronic circuit, or other electronic, chemical, or mechanical
17 means, regardless of shape or size, that can be used to produce vapor
18 or aerosol from a solution or other substance.

19 (a) "Vapor product" includes any electronic cigarette, electronic
20 cigar, electronic cigarillo, electronic pipe, or similar product or
21 device and any vapor cartridge or other container that may contain
22 nicotine in a solution or other form that is intended to be used with
23 or in an electronic cigarette, electronic cigar, electronic
24 cigarillo, electronic pipe, or similar product or device.

25 (b) "Vapor product" does not include any product that meets the
26 definition of marijuana, useable marijuana, marijuana concentrates,
27 marijuana-infused products, cigarette, or tobacco products.

28 (c) For purposes of this subsection (19), "marijuana," "useable
29 marijuana," "marijuana concentrates," and "marijuana-infused
30 products" have the same meaning as provided in RCW 69.50.101.

31 **Sec. 5.** RCW 70.155.020 and 1993 c 507 s 3 are each amended to
32 read as follows:

33 A person who holds a license issued under RCW 82.24.520 or
34 82.24.530 shall:

35 (1) Display the license or a copy in a prominent location at the
36 outlet for which the license is issued; and

37 (2) Display a sign concerning the prohibition of tobacco sales to
38 minors.

39 Such sign shall:

1 (a) Be posted so that it is clearly visible to anyone purchasing
2 tobacco products from the licensee;

3 (b) Be designed and produced by the department of health to read:
4 "THE SALE OF TOBACCO PRODUCTS TO PERSONS UNDER AGE (~~18~~) 21 IS
5 STRICTLY PROHIBITED BY STATE LAW. IF YOU ARE UNDER (~~18~~) 21, YOU
6 COULD BE PENALIZED FOR PURCHASING A TOBACCO PRODUCT; PHOTO ID
7 REQUIRED"; and

8 (c) Be provided free of charge by the liquor (~~control~~) and
9 cannabis board.

10 **Sec. 6.** RCW 70.345.070 and 2016 1st sp.s. c 38 s 12 are each
11 amended to read as follows:

12 (1) Except as provided in subsection (2) of this section, a
13 person who holds a retailer's license issued under this chapter must
14 display a sign concerning the prohibition of vapor product sales to
15 minors. Such sign must:

16 (a) Be posted so that it is clearly visible to anyone purchasing
17 vapor products from the licensee;

18 (b) Be designed and produced by the department of health to read:
19 "The sale of vapor products to persons under age (~~eighteen~~) twenty-
20 one is strictly prohibited by state law. If you are under age
21 (~~eighteen~~) twenty-one, you could be penalized for purchasing a
22 vapor product; photo id required;" and

23 (c) Be provided free of charge by the department of health.

24 (2) For persons also licensed under RCW 82.24.510 or 82.26.150,
25 the board may issue a sign to read: "The sale of tobacco or vapor
26 products to persons under age (~~eighteen~~) twenty-one is strictly
27 prohibited by state law. If you are under age (~~eighteen~~) twenty-
28 one, you could be penalized for purchasing a tobacco or vapor
29 product; photo id required," provided free of charge by the board.

30 (3) A person who holds a license issued under this chapter must
31 display the license or a copy in a prominent location at the outlet
32 for which the license is issued.

33 **Sec. 7.** RCW 70.345.100 and 2016 1st sp.s. c 38 s 19 are each
34 amended to read as follows:

35 (1) No person may offer a tasting of vapor products to the
36 general public unless:

37 (a) The person is a licensed retailer under RCW 70.345.020;

1 (b) The tastings are offered only within the licensed premises
2 operated by the licensee and the products tasted are not removed from
3 within the licensed premises by the customer;

4 (c) Entry into the licensed premises is restricted to persons
5 (~~(eighteen)~~) twenty-one years of age or older;

6 (d) The vapor product being offered for tasting contains zero
7 milligrams per milliliter of nicotine or the customer explicitly
8 consents to a tasting of a vapor product that contains nicotine; and

9 (e) If the customer is tasting from a vapor device owned and
10 maintained by the retailer, a disposable mouthpiece tip is attached
11 to the vapor product being used by the customer for tasting or the
12 vapor device is disposed of after each tasting.

13 (2) A violation of this section is a misdemeanor.

14 **Sec. 8.** RCW 70.155.030 and 1994 c 202 s 1 are each amended to
15 read as follows:

16 (1) No person shall sell or permit to be sold any tobacco product
17 through any device that mechanically dispenses tobacco products
18 unless the device is located fully within premises from which
19 (~~(minors)~~) persons under the age of twenty-one are prohibited or in
20 industrial worksites where (~~(minors)~~) persons under the age of
21 twenty-one are not employed and not less than ten feet from all
22 entrance or exit ways to and from each premise.

23 (2) The board shall adopt rules that allow an exception to the
24 requirement that a device be located not less than ten feet from all
25 entrance or exit ways to and from a premise if it is architecturally
26 impractical for the device to be located not less than ten feet from
27 all entrance and exit ways.

28 **Sec. 9.** RCW 70.155.120 and 2016 1st sp.s. c 38 s 2 are each
29 amended to read as follows:

30 (1) The youth tobacco and vapor products prevention account is
31 created in the state treasury. All fees collected pursuant to RCW
32 82.24.520, 82.24.530, 82.26.160, and 82.26.170 and funds collected by
33 the liquor and cannabis board from the imposition of monetary
34 penalties shall be deposited into this account, except that ten
35 percent of all such fees and penalties shall be deposited in the
36 state general fund.

37 (2) Moneys appropriated from the youth tobacco and vapor products
38 prevention account to the department of health shall be used by the

1 department of health for implementation of this chapter, including
2 collection and reporting of data regarding enforcement and the extent
3 to which access to tobacco products and vapor products by youth has
4 been reduced.

5 (3) The department of health shall enter into interagency
6 agreements with the liquor and cannabis board to pay the costs
7 incurred, up to thirty percent of available funds, in carrying out
8 its enforcement responsibilities under this chapter. Such agreements
9 shall set forth standards of enforcement, consistent with the funding
10 available, so as to reduce the extent to which tobacco products and
11 vapor products are available to individuals under the age of
12 (~~eighteen~~) twenty-one. The agreements shall also set forth
13 requirements for data reporting by the liquor and cannabis board
14 regarding its enforcement activities.

15 (4) The department of health, the liquor and cannabis board, and
16 the department of revenue shall enter into an interagency agreement
17 for payment of the cost of administering the tobacco retailer
18 licensing system and for the provision of quarterly documentation of
19 tobacco wholesaler, retailer, and vending machine names and
20 locations.

21 (5) The department of health shall, within up to seventy percent
22 of available funds, provide grants to local health departments or
23 other local community agencies to develop and implement coordinated
24 tobacco and vapor product intervention strategies to prevent and
25 reduce tobacco and vapor product use by youth.

26 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 10.** This act takes effect January 1, 2019.

27 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 11.** If any provision of this act or its
28 application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the
29 remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other
30 persons or circumstances is not affected.

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