

H.4479

An Act to protect youth from the health risks of tobacco and nicotine addiction

TOBACCO-RELATED ISSUES FACING THE COMMONWEALTH

Youth Smoking is a Public Health Issue

- 90% of smokers try smoking before the age of 18
- 75% of teen smokers continue into adulthood
- Young people are more susceptible to nicotine addiction & its damaging effects on their developing brains, hearts, and lungs
- Data suggests that smoking will cause the early death of 100,000 young people in the Commonwealth
- Over 9,000 people in Massachusetts die each year due to smoking-related illnesses

Economic Impact

- Massachusetts spends over \$4 billion on smoking-related healthcare costs — annually

Complicated Retail Landscape

- 171 cities and towns in the Commonwealth have raised their minimum smoking age to 21, creating a patchwork of different laws

Entering the 21st Century

- E-cigarettes & vaping devices are not covered by Massachusetts smoking laws, despite their growing popularity

SOLUTIONS

Raise the Minimum Smoking Age to 21

- Raising the tobacco and vapor sales age to 21 will remove easy access to tobacco from underage social circles and help prevent young people from starting smoking
- By preventing teenagers from trying smoking, we will be able to break the trend of lifelong addiction
- If we are able to prevent a public health issue from continuing into the next generation, the Commonwealth is poised to save countless lives and billions of dollars in related healthcare expenses

Create Uniformity of Law

- Eliminating the patchwork of municipally-set age limits will remove a major challenge for our local businesses & retailers

Include E-Cigarettes & Vaping

- This bill will amend smoking laws to also ban e-cigarettes and vaping devices in areas where tobacco products are banned
- This bill also codifies in law the MA Attorney General's regulations requiring child-resistant packaging for nicotine substances and containers

Ban Sale by Health Care Institutions & Use in Schools

- The omnibus bill will also ban health care institutions from selling tobacco and vapor products
- It will also ban tobacco and vapor product use in school buildings and facilities, on their grounds or buses, and at their sponsored events

MASSACHUSETTS SMOKING POLICY HISTORY

- ⇒ **1998:** MA bans smoking in state buildings and vehicles & is the first state to legislatively divest state pension funds from tobacco investments
- ⇒ **1998:** MA Attorney General requires warning labels on cigar packaging
- ⇒ **2004:** MA passes the comprehensive smoke-free workplace law
- ⇒ **2014:** CVS bans cigarette sales in their pharmacies
- ⇒ **2016:** Boston bans the use of smokeless tobacco and tobacco products at sports venues, including Fenway Park