House Bill 2358

Sponsored by Representatives TOMEI, SCHAUFLER (Presession filed.)

SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced.**

Prohibits distribution of free samples of noncigarette tobacco products. Authorizes imposition of civil penalty for violation.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

2 Relating to distribution of samples of noncigarette tobacco products.

Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:

SECTION 1. The Legislative Assembly finds that it is in the public interest to promote the health and well-being of the residents of this state by limiting, to the greatest extent possible, the consumption of tobacco products by persons under 18 years of age in Oregon. The prohibition of the distribution of free samples of noncigarette tobacco products serves this public purpose by restricting access to such products by limiting the opportunity of retailers or distributors of tobacco products to enter the market or to expand their market share in Oregon through such distributions or related unfair or anticompetitive practices. In addition, the prohibition of the distribution of free samples of noncigarette tobacco products will eliminate a practice that makes it difficult for the state to enforce the imposition of state taxes on tobacco products and to enforce the laws prohibiting the sale of tobacco products to persons under 18 years of age.

SECTION 2. (1) A person may not distribute free samples of noncigarette tobacco products in this state.

(2) As used in this section, "noncigarette tobacco products" means bidis, cigars, cheroots, stogies, periques, granulated, plug cut, crimp cut, ready rubbed and other smoking tobacco, snuff, snuff flour, cavendish, plug and twist tobacco, fine-cut and other chewing tobaccos, shorts, refuse scraps, clippings, cuttings and sweepings of tobacco and other kinds and forms of tobacco, prepared in such manner as to be suitable for chewing or smoking in a pipe or otherwise, or both for chewing and smoking, and any other product containing tobacco that is intended for human consumption. "Noncigarette tobacco products" does not include cigarettes as defined in ORS 323.010.

SECTION 3. (1) The Director of Human Services may impose a civil penalty of not more than \$1,250 for each violation of section 2 of this 2009 Act.

(2) Civil penalties under this section shall be imposed in the manner provided by ORS 183.745.

<u>SECTION 4.</u> All civil penalties recovered under section 3 of this 2009 Act shall be paid into the State Treasury and credited to the General Fund and are available for general governmental expenses.

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