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HB 4115 – Uniform Treatment of E-cigarettes Bill

What is an E-Cigarette?

According to the Food and Drug Administration an electronic cigarettes (e-cigarettes) are “battery-operated devices that generally contain cartridges filled with nicotine, flavor and other chemicals. The electronic cigarette turns nicotine, which is highly addictive, and other chemicals into a vapor that is inhaled by the user.”ⁱ

Problem Statement:

E-cigarettes contain nicotine and other potentially hazardous substances and when used send vapors into the air, which innocent bystanders can involuntarily inhale. Additionally, there are no restrictions on the sale of these products to minors.

What the Bill Does:

- *Prohibits minors from purchasing and using vaping products such as e-cigarettes. Applies current smoking regulations to e-cigarettes, including penalties for selling to minors.*
- *Under current law, vaping is allowed inside places such as restaurants, airports, higher education campuses, and even the Capitol. By applying current tobacco regulations to e-cigarettes, this bill effectively bans “vaping” in places where smoking is prohibited.*
- *Does not add a tax to e-cigarettes.*

Why this is Necessary:

These devices have scents and chemicals that can negatively affect air quality for non-users. Flavors like cookies n’ cream and strawberry may appeal to minors, who may subsequently become addicted to the nicotine contained in the vapor. People believe e-cigarettes are a safe alternative to smoking, however the Food and Drug Administration has warned the public that e-cigarettes contain “carcinogens and toxic chemicals such as diethylene glycol, an ingredient used in antifreeze.”ⁱⁱ

ⁱ US Food and Drug Administration, *FDA and Public Health Experts Warn About Electronic Cigarettes*, <http://www.fda.gov/newsevents/newsroom/pressannouncements/ucm173222.htm>

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From the Office of Rep. Phil Barnhart – January 29, 2014

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