



STATE SENATE
DISTRICT 25

SB 415
Banning Flavored Cigarettes

The popularity of e-cigarettes has taken flight in a big way. It is a several billion dollar industry and growing exponentially. Right now it is unregulated by the US Government and liquid nicotine can be bought and sold over the Internet without much oversight. Manufacturers do not have to list ingredients on their packages.

The e-cigarette device has huge appeal to teens. There are the E-pens, vape pens, e-Hookahs, and hookah pens. The novelty of an e-cigarette is that it does not contain tar-filled smoke. You get your nicotine hit via vapor.

E-juice companies create flavor recipes like a mixologist would craft the perfect blend for a cocktail. There are hundreds of different liquid flavors –fruity, dessert, candy, coffee, nutty, bubble gum, chocolate, café mocha, watermelon and so on. Adults like them and they sell.

The chemical makeup of the flavors, referred to as juice are generally nicotine, propylene glycol, glycerol and flavor chemicals that change based on different flavors. There are controversial health questions. The scientific research is inconclusive. It is hard to know which studies are objective. Flavor chemicals that are aldehydes, like vanilla, are probably more worrisome than others like maltol, which is a common caramel-type flavor. Many flavors are considered food grade, but it does not mean they are safe to smoke. The variety of flavors and ad campaigns are marketing the devices to kids, and reversing the hard-won stigma of cigarette-smoking in the US.

Because e-cigarettes are such a new trend, health experts have been scrambling to prove that e-cigarettes are a gateway to nicotine addiction. Some studies suggest that adolescents who smoke e-cigs were more likely to smoke regular cigarettes and less likely to quit smoking. In a few short years, these unregulated products have opened up a brand new path to addiction. These devices can deliver powerful hits of a very addictive drug: Nicotine.

SB 415 prohibits distributing, selling or allowing to be sold flavored tobacco products or flavored inhalant deliver system products in this state. We have worked so hard to prevent tobacco use among our youth, and need to continue to promote a healthy lifestyle for all Oregonians.

