

Seventy-Eighth Oregon Legislative Assembly - 2015 Regular Session
STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY
House Committee On Health Care

MEASURE: HB 2546 A
CARRIER: Rep. Taylor

Fiscal: Has minimal fiscal impact
Revenue: Has minimal revenue impact

Action Date: 02/20/15
Action: Do Pass As Amended And Be Printed Engrossed.
Meeting Dates: 02/09, 02/20

House

Yeas: 7 - Buehler, Clem, Greenlick, Hayden, Keny-Guyer, Lively, Nosse
Nays: 1 - Weidner
Exc: 1 - Kennemer

Prepared By: Sandy Thiele-Cirka, Committee Administrator

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Defines “inhalant delivery system.” Amends laws relating to sale of tobacco products to, and the use of tobacco products by, minors. Expands the scope of the offense of endangering the welfare of a minor by knowingly causing sale of tobacco products to minors by including distribution and sale of inhalant delivery systems. Adds inhalants to the Oregon Clean Air Act, and defines “inhalant.” Repeals laws relating to smoking in public that are duplicative or inconsistent with provisions of the Oregon Clean Air Act. Clarifies the exception also applies to devices approved by federal Food and Drug Administration. Allows healthcare facilities to allow inhalant delivery system on site for the purpose of administering medical marijuana. Directs Oregon Health Authority (OHA) to report on the consistency between state and federal regulations on or before February 1, 2019. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Health concerns and hazards
- Need to be included in the Oregon Clean Air Act
- Provisions of the measure
- Alternative to tobacco products
- Tobacco cessation substitute
- Concerns with attracting minors to e-cigarettes
- Concerns to smoke shop owners
- Customers want to sample products at smoke shops
- Proposed amendment

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:

Clarifies the exception also applies to devices approved by Food and Drug Administration. Allows healthcare facilities to allow inhalant delivery system on site for the purpose of administering medical marijuana. Directs OHA to report on the consistency between state and federal regulations on or before February 1, 2019.

BACKGROUND:

Electronic cigarettes, often called e-cigarettes, are battery-operated devices designed to look like regular tobacco cigarettes. The device functions as follows: an atomizer heats liquid containing nicotine, turning it into a vapor that can be inhaled and creating a vapor cloud that resembles cigarette smoke.

Manufacturers claim that electronic cigarettes are a safe alternative to conventional cigarettes. However, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has not determined and has questioned the safety of these products. When the FDA analyzed samples of two popular brands, it found variable amounts of nicotine and traces of toxic chemicals, including known cancer-causing substances. This prompted the FDA to issue a warning about potential health risks associated with electronic cigarettes.