

7-Eleven Strongly Oppose SB 1559 Tobacco licensing of Retail Stores

7-Eleven stores go to great lengths to prevent the sale of tobacco products to minors and have strong policies in place to prevent sales to minors. New licensure requirements don't prevent youth tobacco usage.

7-Eleven Has Existing Policies to Prevent Tobacco Sales to Minors

- Stores owned and operated by 7-Eleven have a no tolerance policy. Employees are fired for just one violation, and franchisees can lose their business if the store has two violations. 7-Eleven stores are equipped to electronically scan ID cards for age verification. All clerks are trained and educated under the We Card Under 18 program.

Legislation places additional costs, uncertainty, and burdens on small Oregon businesses, while providing carve outs for Walmart and big corporate grocery chains.

High Fees Not Specifically Dedicated to Train Retail Employees Who Sell Tobacco Products

- Legislation requires a \$300 fee on business that sells tobacco products. After the first year, that fee can be raised by rule. Legislation directs revenue to go toward education, but not specifically to training store employees.

Late Amendments Adopted to Benefit Big Businesses

- The -12 amendments were adopted without public comment during the Joint Ways and Means process. The amendments allow local jurisdictions to prohibit small neighborhood stores, under 5,000 square feet, from locating within a certain proximity of schools. The bill specifically exempts the large corporate stores like Walmart from that requirement.

Existing Stores Face Uncertainty Around the Transfer of Ownership

- Does the franchise or franchisee hold the license? Does a tobacco license transfer if a location is sold to a new owner? Can a family member inherit the license? It is unclear. Legislation provides great uncertainty and will likely lead to legal challenges and an inability for small store owners to sell or transfer their store with loss of a tobacco license.

Oregon Already Has Strong Laws to Prevent Youth Tobacco Use

- In order to solve the youth tobacco usage problem, Oregon should enforce its current laws. State law already allows for random inspection of retailers. Oregon has laws that prohibit minors from purchasing or possessing tobacco products, and tobacco products are prohibited on school property. It is a crime to sell, distribute, or give away tobacco products to anyone under 18. Law enforcement should crack down on retailers who violate current laws.