

SB 754 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Carrier: Rep. Vial

House Committee On Health Care

Action Date: 05/10/17

Action: Do Pass the A-Eng bill.

Vote: 7-2-0-0

Yeas: 7 - Alonso Leon, Buehler, Greenlick, Kennemer, Keny-Guyer, Malstrom, Nosse

Nays: 2 - Hack, Hayden

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: Revenue impact issued

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WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Increases from 18 to 21 years old the minimum age to purchase and possess tobacco and nicotine products. Establishes a range of fines from \$50-\$1,000 for individuals or businesses that distribute or sell tobacco-related products or inhalant delivery systems to persons under 21 years of age. Modifies statutory definition of cigarettes to include inhalant devices and products not approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. Expands the types of facilities not permitted to allow a person under 21 years of age to possess tobacco or inhalant delivery systems when on facility grounds to include colleges, community colleges, universities, career schools and technical education schools. Applies to conduct occurring on or after January 1, 2018. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Reducing tobacco use is a public health concern
- Economic and health care costs associated with smoking
- Impact to small smoke shops
- Proposed amendments
- Legislative intent is to ensure that people under 21 years of age are allowed to sell tobacco products in convenience and grocery stores, that the bill will only limit 18-20 year olds from working in smoke shops
- Concerns relating to high percentage of adolescent smokers in minority communities

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

According to the Oregon Health Authority (OHA), tobacco use is the number one preventable cause of death and disease in Oregon, resulting in an estimated 7,000 deaths, annually, costing Oregonians \$2.5 billion a year in medical expenditures and leading to lost productivity due to premature death. Ninety percent of smokers start smoking before the age of 18 years of age. According to a 2013 survey by the Oregon Public Health Division, OHA, 10 percent of Oregon's 11th grade students smoke cigarettes, and approximately 20 percent use other tobacco products. Two states (California and Hawaii) and a number of local governments have raised the minimum age to purchase or consume tobacco to 21 years of age. The Institute of Medicine suggests that these policies are intended to lower initiation rates among adolescents and young adults.

Senate Bill 754-A raises the legal age to purchase and possess tobacco or inhalant delivery systems from 18 to 21 years of age.