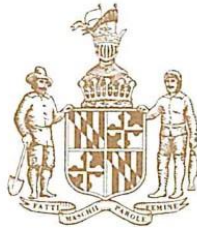


**BEN BARNES**  
*Legislative District 21*  
Prince George's and  
Anne Arundel Counties

—  
*Chair*  
Appropriations Committee



The Maryland House of Delegates  
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*The Maryland House of Delegates*  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Greetings Members of the House Appropriations Committee,

House Bill 1073 adjusts the tax rates for cigarettes, increasing the tax on each package of 20 cigarettes from \$3.75 to \$4.50 and on each cigarette in a package of more than 20 from 17.5 to 22.5 cents. This adjustment is necessary to work to mitigate the adverse health effects associated with tobacco use.

HB 1073 represents a crucial step towards enhancing our state's fiscal well-being; by supporting this legislation, we demonstrate our commitment to safeguarding the health and prosperity of all Maryland residents and our commitment towards taking steps to reduce the structural deficit. I ask for a favorable report.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ben Barnes".

Delegate Ben Barnes, Chair  
Appropriations Committee  
District 21