



THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT

(301) 952-3700 County Council

POSITION STATEMENT

HB 1241\SB842

Delegate Ambry

Senator Beidle

Regulation of Other Tobacco Products and Electronic Smoking Devices

POSITION:

The Prince George's County Council supports HB1241\SB842, which is a critical step toward strengthening Maryland's regulatory framework for tobacco products and electronic smoking devices. The bill provides essential enforcement tools to address the growing concerns related to the proliferation of tobacco retailers, especially in jurisdictions like Prince George's County, where an increasing number of these establishments threaten public health and community stability.

HB1241\SB842 grants the Executive Director of the Alcohol, Tobacco, and Cannabis Commission, along with peace officers, expanded authority to seize illegal tobacco products and electronic smoking devices without a warrant. This ensures swift enforcement against non-compliant retailers, reducing the presence of illicit and unregulated products in the market. Additionally, the bill introduces a wholesaler licensing system and mandates rigorous record-keeping, ensuring greater transparency and accountability within the industry.

For Prince George's County, HB1241\SB842 addresses the unchecked expansion of tobacco retailers, which disproportionately impacts vulnerable communities and undermines public health efforts. By enhancing regulatory oversight, HB1241\SB842 aligns with the county's broader initiatives to limit youth access to tobacco products and mitigate the harmful effects of nicotine addiction. The ability to seize unlawful products without a warrant serves as a powerful deterrent against non-compliant retailers.

Public health advocates, local officials, and community organizations have consistently called for stricter enforcement mechanisms to tackle the negative effects of tobacco and electronic smoking devices. HB1241\SB842 responds to these concerns by creating a strong framework to hold retailers and wholesalers accountable. The bill's licensing and record-keeping requirements not only ensure compliance but also provide state and local regulators with crucial data to identify problematic trends and enforce corrective measures.

The business community must also recognize the long-term benefits of HB1241\SB842. Although the bill imposes stricter oversight, it ultimately fosters a fair marketplace by removing unscrupulous

operators who undercut lawful businesses through illicit sales. Responsible retailers and wholesalers who adhere to the law will benefit from a regulatory environment that prioritizes compliance and consumer protection.

HB1241\SB842 represents a forward-thinking approach to tobacco regulation that balances enforcement with public health. By providing clear enforcement authority, establishing licensing requirements, and ensuring rigorous oversight, this legislation significantly enhances Maryland's ability to regulate tobacco and electronic smoking devices. Passage of HB1241\SB842 is essential to advancing public health goals, strengthening enforcement, and ensuring tobacco retailers comply with the law. The legislation deserves the full support of policymakers, stakeholders, and community advocates committed to protecting Maryland's residents from the harmful effects of unregulated tobacco products.

For the foregoing reasons, the Prince George's County Council **SUPPORTS House Bill 1241\Senate Bill 842** and respectfully requests your favorable consideration of its position.

Prepared by: Carrington & Associates, LLC

On behalf of the Prince George's County Council

Wayne K. Curry Administration Building – Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772