

**ALA\_MD\_ATCC Seizure Bill Testimony\_SB 842\_2-25-25.**

Uploaded by: Aleks Casper

Position: FAV



Testimony Senate Bill 842  
Senate Finance Committee  
February 25, 2025  
Support

Chair Beidle, Vice-Chair Hayes and Members of the Senate Finance Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on Senate Bill 842 – Other Tobacco Products and Electronic Smoking Devices – Seizure Requirements sponsored by Chair Beidle. The American Lung Association supports this bill as it would give the Alcohol Tobacco and Cannabis Commission the authority to seize other tobacco products including electronic smoking devices.

The American Lung Association is the leading organization working to save lives by improving lung health and preventing lung disease, through research, education and advocacy. The work of the American Lung Association is focused on four strategic imperatives: to defeat lung cancer; to improve the air we breathe; to reduce the burden of lung disease on individuals and their families; and to eliminate tobacco use and tobacco-related diseases.

In the recent release of the American Lung Association’s [State of Tobacco Control](#), it was noted that the funding for Maryland’s Tobacco Control and Prevention program at approximately \$23 million is (inclusive of approximately \$1.7 million of federal CDC funds) woefully lower than the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s (CDC) recommended level of \$48 million, at 47.9%. The Lung Association strongly support protecting and increasing this funding especially considering the high levels of youth use of electronic smoking devices and the need to develop educational programs and outreach to prevent youth from initiating tobacco use and encourage current smokers to quit and not switch.

Tobacco use remains the leading cause of preventable death in the United States, killing an estimated 490,000 Americans and [7,500 Marylanders](#) each year.<sup>1</sup> The American Lung Association supports funding of evidence-based tobacco prevention, education and cessation programs. These programs should focus their efforts on the populations most disproportionately impacted by tobacco use and secondhand smoke exposure.

In data from the [2024 National Tobacco Youth Survey](#), tobacco use among high school and middle school students continue to show at high levels with more than 2.25 million youth using a tobacco product. The report also shows that 1.63 million youth are still vaping, and over 25% are vaping daily which indicates a very high addiction rate. In [Maryland](#), 23% of high school students use an electronic smoking device. Nearly 90% of the youth survey respondents reported using flavored e-cigarettes including mint and menthol. Flavored tobacco products remain the primary gateway for youth addiction. The tobacco industry has continued to target youth users with marketing of flavored tobacco products which makes them appealing to youth, with many of them not realizing that these products contain nicotine. We are continuing to see an onslaught of new products enter the market, such as nicotine pouches which come in flavors designed to attract youth. As a result, we are setting our kids up for a lifetime of addiction and losing the opportunity for the first tobacco-free generation.

During the 2024 session, the General Assembly passed House Bill 1180/Senate Bill 1056, the Tobacco Retail License Modernization Act of 2024 which made important changes to the way tobacco products are sold in Maryland, including requiring annual compliance checks of retailers. An important part of these compliance checks are the ability to seize products which are not legal to be sold in Maryland. Currently, the ATCC has the authority to seize cigarettes however they do not have the authority to seize other tobacco products including electronic smoking devices and liquids. Senate Bill 842 gives the ATCC the authority to seize all tobacco products that are illegal to be sold in Maryland. The Lung Association believes this authority is an integral piece in the enforcement of tobacco laws in Maryland.

Thank you for your continued commitment to the health and wellbeing of the residents of Maryland, we urge you to support Senate Bill 842 and encourage a favorable report from committee.

Sincerely,



Aleks Casper  
American Lung Association  
Director of Advocacy, Maryland  
202-719-2810  
[aleks.casper@lung.org](mailto:aleks.casper@lung.org)

<sup>1</sup> U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Eliminating Tobacco-Related Disease and Death: Addressing Disparities—A Report of the Surgeon General. Atlanta, GA: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, Office on Smoking and Health, 2024.

**Letter224.docx-10.pdf**

Uploaded by: Corin Adams

Position: FAV



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Senator Pam Beidle  
Finance Committee, Chairman  
3 East Miller Senate Office Building  
11 Bladen St., Annapolis, MD 21401

February 24, 2025

RE: SB 842 - Other Tobacco Products and Electronic Smoking Devices - Seizure and Wholesaler Licensure Requirements

POSITION: FAVORABLE

Dear Chairwoman Beidle,

I am writing to you as a mentor living in Baltimore, to express my support for SB842, and thank you for your leadership in sponsoring this bill. I support this bill because of my passion for youth in the youth development space.

Despite progress in tobacco control, the problem of youth access to tobacco products, particularly e-cigarettes, remains significant. Data indicates that over 48,000 Maryland high school students self-report that they use tobacco products, a number that likely falls short of the true total. The marketing strategies and new products like flavored e-cigarettes target and hook kids, Big Tobacco's next generation of customers.

The impact of youth tobacco use is both a public health and economic burden. Maryland incurs annual healthcare costs of approximately \$3.14 billion directly related to smoking, and 27.5% cancer-related Maryland deaths can be traced to tobacco use. We must act now to mitigate its influence on the health our children and our communities at large.

As you know, SB842 proposes to grant the Alcohol, Tobacco, and Cannabis Commission the same seizure powers over e-cigarettes that it already has over other tobacco products like

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The need for this legislation is broadly recognized. In 2024, polling showed eighty-one percent of Maryland voters supported action against Big Tobacco to safeguard our children. I urge your committee to vote in favor of SB 842, and continue your strong track record of protecting our children from the dangers of tobacco.

Thank you for your consideration and for taking a stand with me.

Sincerely,

Alexia Nelson

Leader Breeders

**Letter224.docx-11.pdf**

Uploaded by: Corin Adams

Position: FAV

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Sincerely,

Tori Fowlkes

Leader Breeders

**Letter224.docx-3.pdf**

Uploaded by: Corin Adams

Position: FAV

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Thank you for your consideration and for taking a stand with me.

Sincerely,

Ciara Webb

Leader Breeders



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Uploaded by: Corin Adams

Position: FAV

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Sincerely,

Elethia Singletary

Leader Breeders

**Letter224.docx-5.pdf**

Uploaded by: Corin Adams

Position: FAV

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Sincerely,

Kimberly Ross-Watkins

Leader Breeders

**Letter224.docx-6.pdf**

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Position: FAV

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Sincerely,

Marvin Cornish

Leader Breeders

**Letter224.docx-7.pdf**

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Position: FAV

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Thank you for your consideration and for taking a stand with me.

Sincerely,

Gwendolyn Youngblood

Leader Breeders

**Letter224.docx-8.pdf**

Uploaded by: Corin Adams

Position: FAV

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RE: SB 842 - Other Tobacco Products and Electronic Smoking Devices - Seizure and Wholesaler  
Licensure Requirements

POSITION: FAVORABLE

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Sincerely,

Laura Herrmann

Leader Breeders

**Letter224.docx-9.pdf**

Uploaded by: Corin Adams

Position: FAV



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Sincerely,

Trachel Carter

Leader Breeders

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Sincerely,

Corin ‘Tiny’ Adams

Leader Breeders

# **Carrington 2025 PGC HB1241 SB842 Regulating Tobacc**

Uploaded by: Darrell Carrington

Position: FAV



# 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.

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Prepared by: Carrington & Associates, LLC

On behalf of the Prince George's County Council

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



**senate letter copy.pdf**

Uploaded by: Kristin Jimison

Position: FAV



1400 EYE STREET, N.W. • SUITE 1200 • WASHINGTON, DC 20005  
PHONE (202) 296-5469 • FAX (202) 296-5427

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SB 842- Other Tobacco Products and Electronic Smoking Devices - Seizure and Wholesaler Licensure Requirements

Position: Support

Chair Beidle and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on SB 841, a bill that will continue this committee's strong record of protecting children from the dangers of tobacco. This legislation seeks to close a loophole in our tobacco enforcement laws, and by doing so, strengthen the Alcohol, Tobacco and Cannabis Commission's (ATCC) enforcement powers for electronic smoking devices, also known as e-cigarettes or vapes.

As the one of leading advocacy organization working to reduce tobacco use and its deadly consequences in the United States, the Campaign for Tobacco Free Kids urges a favorable vote.

The problem of youth access to tobacco products, particularly electronic smoking devices, remains significant. The tobacco industry persistently targets children, and so, we too must remain persistent and protect our children from these harmful products. This industry also specifically and relentlessly targets Black Americans, Latino communities, our LGBTQ communities.

SB 842, with sponsor amendments that clarify intent, will help the State of Maryland do exactly that – protect kids from a lifetime of nicotine addiction and tobacco use.

The ATCC is currently able to seize tobacco products like cigarettes while carrying out its enforcement authority. Notably absent from any seizure authority is authorizing language that allows it to seize electronic smoking devices for any violations. This bill would close this loophole and grant the ATCC this seizure power.

A similar loophole exists in the record keeping requirements for electronic smoking devices. Though other tobacco products are subject to record keeping requirements that include key information, electronic smoking devices are not subject to these same record keeping requirements. SB 842 would bring electronic smoking devices under the same record keeping requirements that currently apply to other tobacco products.

This legislation will help ensure the same strategies and enforcement that protect Maryland's youth from cigarettes are also available to the ATCC for electronic smoking devices, which are the most popular tobacco product among young people. More than 14% of Maryland high school students report that they used e-cigarettes in 2023; young people are not just experimenting with these products but are showing signs of serious addiction. This youth addiction crisis reflects the increased availability of high nicotine e-cigarettes—some of today's e-cigarettes can contain as much or more nicotine as 200 cigarettes. Nicotine

is a highly addictive drug that can harm the adolescent brain – particularly the areas of the brain responsible for attention, learning, mood and impulse control.

The need for this legislation is broadly recognized. Polling shows that 81 percent of Maryland voters support common sense action to prevent the sale of tobacco products to our kids.

For these reasons, we urge you to vote in favor of SB 842.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kristin Jimison".

Kristin Jimison  
Regional Advocacy Director, Mid-Atlantic  
Campaign for Tobacco Free Kids

# Support SB 842 Wholesaler ECig AHA.pdf

Uploaded by: Laura Hale

Position: FAV



February 21, 2025

Testimony of Laura Hale

American Heart Association

**Support SB 842 Other Tobacco Products and Electronic Smoking Devices - Seizure and Wholesaler Licensure Requirements**

Dear Chair Beidle, Vice Chair Hayes and Honorable Members of the Finance Committee,

Thank you for your time and consideration on this important legislation for heart health. My name is Laura Hale and I am the Director of Government Relations for the American Heart Association. The American Heart Association extends its support SB 842 Other Tobacco Products and Electronic Smoking Devices - Seizure and Wholesaler Licensure Requirements including the technical amendments offered by the sponsor.

Strong retail licensure requirements are a proven way to prevent and limit youth use of tobacco products<sup>1</sup>. Having the proper tools in the tool box is important for our retail licensure, one area that is in need of update is the seizure authority of these products. ATCC should be able to seize and dispose of all tobacco products and this legislation clarifies that authority for e-cigarettes.

In addition, this legislation continues to clarify needed licensure loopholes for e-cigarettes to place all manufacturers on an even playing field.

Places with stronger retail licensure requirements have lower rates of cigarette and e-cigarette use and initiation among both youth and young adults<sup>2</sup>. This bill continues to strengthen the retail licensure requirements in the state in proven effective ways that are key for tobacco control and are good business practices for the state.

The American Heart Association urges a favorable report on this legislation.

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<sup>1</sup> Astor, R.L., Urman, R., Barrington-Trimis, J.L., Berhane, K., Steinberg, J., Cousineau, M., Leventhal, A.M., Unger, J.B., Cruz, T., Pentz, M., Samet, J.M., & McConnell, R. (2019). Tobacco Retail Licensing and Youth Product Use. *Pediatrics*, 143 (2), Article e20173536. <https://doi.org/10.1542/peds.2017-3536>

<sup>2</sup> Source: Astor, R.L., Urman, R., Barrington-Trimis, J.L., Berhane, K., Steinberg, J., Cousineau, M., Leventhal, A.M., Unger, J.B., Cruz, T., Pentz, M., Samet, J.M., & McConnell, R. (2019). Tobacco Retail Licensing and Youth Product Use. *Pediatrics*, 143 (2), Article e20173536. <https://doi.org/10.1542/peds.2017-3536>

**SB 842 NBBC VR.pdf**

Uploaded by: Lisa Weah

Position: FAV

Senator Pam Beidle  
Finance Committee, Chairman  
3 East Miller Senate Office Building  
11 Bladen St., Annapolis, MD 21401

February 24, 2025

RE: SB 842 - Other Tobacco Products and Electronic Smoking Devices - Seizure and Wholesaler Licensure Requirements

POSITION: FAVORABLE

Dear Chairwoman Beidle,

I am writing to you as a Deacon, serving in Baltimore City, to express my support for SB842, and thank you for your leadership in sponsoring this bill. I support this bill because our church believes that our community should be physically and spiritually healthy.

Despite progress in tobacco control, the problem of youth access to tobacco products, particularly e-cigarettes, remains significant. Data indicates that over 48,000 Maryland high school students self-report that they use tobacco products, a number that likely falls short of the true total. The marketing strategies and new products like flavored e-cigarettes target and hook kids, Big Tobacco's next generation of customers.

The impact of youth tobacco use is both a public health and economic burden. Maryland incurs annual healthcare costs of approximately \$3.14 billion directly related to smoking, and 27.5% cancer-related Maryland deaths can be traced to tobacco use. We must act now to mitigate its influence on the health our children and our communities at large.

As you know, SB842 proposes to grant the Alcohol, Tobacco, and Cannabis Commission the same seizure powers over e-cigarettes that it already has over other tobacco products like cigarettes, to make uniform the Commission's oversight and enforcement authority across the tobacco market. The legislation also brings e-cigarettes in line with regulations for other tobacco products, notably by requiring records keeping for the sale of e-cigarettes. These steps are crucial for ensuring the same healthcare and public health strategies and enforcement that protect Maryland's youth from products like cigarettes are also available for e-cigarettes.

The need for this legislation is broadly recognized. In 2024, polling showed eighty-one percent of Maryland voters supported action against Big Tobacco to safeguard our children. I urge your committee to vote in favor of SB 842, and continue your strong track record of protecting our children from the dangers of tobacco.

Thank you for your consideration and for taking a stand with me.

Sincerely,

Von Riley, Chairman of the Diaconate  
New Bethlehem Baptist Church



**SB 842 NBBC.pdf**

Uploaded by: Lisa Weah

Position: FAV



Bishop Lisa M. Weah, D.Min.

New Bethlehem Baptist Church  
1354 N. Carey St.  
Baltimore, Maryland 21217  
410-669-9119  
thenbbc@gmail.com

Senator Pam Beidle  
Finance Committee, Chairman  
3 East Miller Senate Office Building  
11 Bladen St., Annapolis, MD 21401

February 24, 2025

RE: SB 842 - Other Tobacco Products and Electronic Smoking Devices - Seizure and Wholesaler Licensure Requirements

POSITION: FAVORABLE

Dear Chairwoman Beidle,

I am writing to you as a Pastor, serving in Baltimore City, to express my support for SB842, and thank you for your leadership in sponsoring this bill. I support this bill because I am promoting a physical and spiritual healthy community.

Despite progress in tobacco control, the problem of youth access to tobacco products, particularly e-cigarettes, remains significant. Data indicates that over 48,000 Maryland high school students self-report that they use tobacco products, a number that likely falls short of the true total. The marketing strategies and new products like flavored e-cigarettes target and hook kids, Big Tobacco's next generation of customers.

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[WWW.THENBBC.ORG](http://WWW.THENBBC.ORG)



Bishop Lisa M. Weah, D.Min.

New Bethlehem Baptist Church  
1354 N. Carey St.  
Baltimore, Maryland 21217  
410-669-9119  
thenbbc@gmail.com

The need for this legislation is broadly recognized. In 2024, polling showed eighty-one percent of Maryland voters supported action against Big Tobacco to safeguard our children. I urge your committee to vote in favor of SB 842, and continue your strong track record of protecting our children from the dangers of tobacco.

Thank you for your consideration and for taking a stand with me.

Sincerely,

Bishop Lisa M. Weah  
New Bethlehem Baptist Church

**SB842 NBBC AH.pdf**

Uploaded by: Lisa Weah

Position: FAV

Senator Pam Beidle  
Finance Committee, Chairman  
3 East Miller Senate Office Building  
11 Bladen St., Annapolis, MD 21401

February 24, 2025

RE: SB 842 - Other Tobacco Products and Electronic Smoking Devices - Seizure and Wholesaler Licensure Requirements

POSITION: FAVORABLE

Dear Chairwoman Beidle,

I am writing to you as a Deacon, serving in Baltimore City, to express my support for SB842, and thank you for your leadership in sponsoring this bill. I support this bill because our church believes that our community should be physically and spiritually healthy.

Despite progress in tobacco control, the problem of youth access to tobacco products, particularly e-cigarettes, remains significant. Data indicates that over 48,000 Maryland high school students self-report that they use tobacco products, a number that likely falls short of the true total. The marketing strategies and new products like flavored e-cigarettes target and hook kids, Big Tobacco's next generation of customers.

The impact of youth tobacco use is both a public health and economic burden. Maryland incurs annual healthcare costs of approximately \$3.14 billion directly related to smoking, and 27.5% cancer-related Maryland deaths can be traced to tobacco use. We must act now to mitigate its influence on the health our children and our communities at large.

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The need for this legislation is broadly recognized. In 2024, polling showed eighty-one percent of Maryland voters supported action against Big Tobacco to safeguard our children. I urge your committee to vote in favor of SB 842, and continue your strong track record of protecting our children from the dangers of tobacco.

Thank you for your consideration and for taking a stand with me.

Sincerely,

Aaron Henry, Member of the Diaconate Board  
New Bethlehem Baptist Church

**SB842 NBBC BB.pdf**

Uploaded by: Lisa Weah

Position: FAV

Senator Pam Beidle  
Finance Committee, Chairman  
3 East Miller Senate Office Building  
11 Bladen St., Annapolis, MD 21401

February 24, 2025

RE: SB 842 - Other Tobacco Products and Electronic Smoking Devices - Seizure and Wholesaler Licensure Requirements

POSITION: FAVORABLE

Dear Chairwoman Beidle,

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Despite progress in tobacco control, the problem of youth access to tobacco products, particularly e-cigarettes, remains significant. Data indicates that over 48,000 Maryland high school students self-report that they use tobacco products, a number that likely falls short of the true total. The marketing strategies and new products like flavored e-cigarettes target and hook kids, Big Tobacco's next generation of customers.

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The need for this legislation is broadly recognized. In 2024, polling showed eighty-one percent of Maryland voters supported action against Big Tobacco to safeguard our children. I urge your committee to vote in favor of SB 842, and continue your strong track record of protecting our children from the dangers of tobacco.

Thank you for your consideration and for taking a stand with me.



Sincerely,

Bernice Brown, Member of the Diaconate Board  
New Bethlehem Baptist Church

**SB842 NBBC CS.pdf**

Uploaded by: Lisa Weah

Position: FAV

Senator Pam Beidle  
Finance Committee, Chairman  
3 East Miller Senate Office Building  
11 Bladen St., Annapolis, MD 21401

February 24, 2025

RE: SB 842 - Other Tobacco Products and Electronic Smoking Devices - Seizure and Wholesaler Licensure Requirements

POSITION: FAVORABLE

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Despite progress in tobacco control, the problem of youth access to tobacco products, particularly e-cigarettes, remains significant. Data indicates that over 48,000 Maryland high school students self-report that they use tobacco products, a number that likely falls short of the true total. The marketing strategies and new products like flavored e-cigarettes target and hook kids, Big Tobacco's next generation of customers.

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The need for this legislation is broadly recognized. In 2024, polling showed eighty-one percent of Maryland voters supported action against Big Tobacco to safeguard our children. I urge your committee to vote in favor of SB 842, and continue your strong track record of protecting our children from the dangers of tobacco.

Thank you for your consideration and for taking a stand with me.

Sincerely,

Catrina Seibles, Member of the Diaconate Board  
New Bethlehem Baptist Church

**SB842 NBBC JJ.pdf**

Uploaded by: Lisa Weah

Position: FAV

Senator Pam Beidle  
Finance Committee, Chairman  
3 East Miller Senate Office Building  
11 Bladen St., Annapolis, MD 21401

February 24, 2025

RE: SB 842 - Other Tobacco Products and Electronic Smoking Devices - Seizure and Wholesaler Licensure Requirements

POSITION: FAVORABLE

Dear Chairwoman Beidle,

I am writing to you as a Deacon, serving in Baltimore City, to express my support for SB842, and thank you for your leadership in sponsoring this bill. I support this bill because our church believes that our community should be physically and spiritually healthy.

Despite progress in tobacco control, the problem of youth access to tobacco products, particularly e-cigarettes, remains significant. Data indicates that over 48,000 Maryland high school students self-report that they use tobacco products, a number that likely falls short of the true total. The marketing strategies and new products like flavored e-cigarettes target and hook kids, Big Tobacco's next generation of customers.

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The need for this legislation is broadly recognized. In 2024, polling showed eighty-one percent of Maryland voters supported action against Big Tobacco to safeguard our children. I urge your committee to vote in favor of SB 842, and continue your strong track record of protecting our children from the dangers of tobacco.

Thank you for your consideration and for taking a stand with me.

Sincerely,

Jimmy Johnson, Member of the Diaconate  
New Bethlehem Baptist Church

**SB842 NBBC RJ.pdf**

Uploaded by: Lisa Weah

Position: FAV



Senator Pam Beidle  
Finance Committee, Chairman  
3 East Miller Senate Office Building  
11 Bladen St., Annapolis, MD 21401

February 24, 2025

RE: SB 842 - Other Tobacco Products and Electronic Smoking Devices - Seizure and Wholesaler Licensure Requirements

POSITION: FAVORABLE

Dear Chairwoman Beidle,

I am writing to you as a Deacon, serving in Baltimore City, to express my support for SB842, and thank you for your leadership in sponsoring this bill. I support this bill because our church believes that our community should be physically and spiritually healthy.

Despite progress in tobacco control, the problem of youth access to tobacco products, particularly e-cigarettes, remains significant. Data indicates that over 48,000 Maryland high school students self-report that they use tobacco products, a number that likely falls short of the true total. The marketing strategies and new products like flavored e-cigarettes target and hook kids, Big Tobacco's next generation of customers.

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The need for this legislation is broadly recognized. In 2024, polling showed eighty-one percent of Maryland voters supported action against Big Tobacco to safeguard our children. I urge your committee to vote in favor of SB 842, and continue your strong track record of protecting our children from the dangers of tobacco.

Thank you for your consideration and for taking a stand with me.

Sincerely,

Rena Jackson, Member of the Diaconate Board  
New Bethlehem Baptist Church

**SB842 NBBC SB.pdf**

Uploaded by: Lisa Weah

Position: FAV

Senator Pam Beidle  
Finance Committee, Chairman  
3 East Miller Senate Office Building  
11 Bladen St., Annapolis, MD 21401

February 24, 2025

RE: SB 842 - Other Tobacco Products and Electronic Smoking Devices - Seizure and Wholesaler Licensure Requirements

POSITION: FAVORABLE

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Thank you for your consideration and for taking a stand with me.

Sincerely,

Shirley Burrell, Member of the Diaconate Board  
New Bethlehem Baptist Church

**SB842 NBBC ST.pdf**

Uploaded by: Lisa Weah

Position: FAV

Senator Pam Beidle  
Finance Committee, Chairman  
3 East Miller Senate Office Building  
11 Bladen St., Annapolis, MD 21401

February 24, 2025

RE: SB 842 - Other Tobacco Products and Electronic Smoking Devices - Seizure and Wholesaler Licensure Requirements

POSITION: FAVORABLE

Dear Chairwoman Beidle,

I am writing to you as a Trustee, serving in Baltimore City, to express my support for SB842, and thank you for your leadership in sponsoring this bill. I support this bill because our church believes that our community should be physically and spiritually healthy.

Despite progress in tobacco control, the problem of youth access to tobacco products, particularly e-cigarettes, remains significant. Data indicates that over 48,000 Maryland high school students self-report that they use tobacco products, a number that likely falls short of the true total. The marketing strategies and new products like flavored e-cigarettes target and hook kids, Big Tobacco's next generation of customers.

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The need for this legislation is broadly recognized. In 2024, polling showed eighty-one percent of Maryland voters supported action against Big Tobacco to safeguard our children. I urge your committee to vote in favor of SB 842, and continue your strong track record of protecting our children from the dangers of tobacco.

Thank you for your consideration and for taking a stand with me.

Sincerely,

Sharon Thornton, Chairwoman of the Board of Trustees  
New Bethlehem Baptist Church



**SB842 NBBC WM.pdf**

Uploaded by: Lisa Weah

Position: FAV

Senator Pam Beidle  
Finance Committee, Chairman  
3 East Miller Senate Office Building  
11 Bladen St., Annapolis, MD 21401

February 24, 2025

RE: SB 842 - Other Tobacco Products and Electronic Smoking Devices - Seizure and Wholesaler Licensure Requirements

POSITION: FAVORABLE

Dear Chairwoman Beidle,

I am writing to you as a Deacon, serving in Baltimore City, to express my support for SB842, and thank you for your leadership in sponsoring this bill. I support this bill because our church believes that our community should be physically and spiritually healthy.

Despite progress in tobacco control, the problem of youth access to tobacco products, particularly e-cigarettes, remains significant. Data indicates that over 48,000 Maryland high school students self-report that they use tobacco products, a number that likely falls short of the true total. The marketing strategies and new products like flavored e-cigarettes target and hook kids, Big Tobacco's next generation of customers.

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Thank you for your consideration and for taking a stand with me.

Sincerely,

William McKelvin, Member of the Diaconate Board  
New Bethlehem Baptist Church

# Written Testimony Letter K. Ray - S.pdf

Uploaded by: Nabeehah Azeez

Position: FAV

Senator Pam Beidle  
Finance Committee, Chairman  
3 East Miller Senate Office Building  
11 Bladen St., Annapolis, MD 21401  
February 25, 2025

**Re: Testimony on SB 0842 (HB 1241) - *Other Tobacco Products and Electronic Smoking Devices- Seizure and Wholesaler Licensure Requirements***

**Position: Favorable**

**Subject: Urging Support for SB 0842**

Dear Chairman Beidle,

As a Father of 2 children, an infant and an eleven year old in Baltimore City. I am writing to urge your support for SB 0842. I have seen the harmful effects of tobacco use in my own community and worry about how easily children are exposed to e-cigarettes. I support this bill because I want to ensure that our youth are not the next targets of Big Tobacco.

I appreciate your commitment to protecting children from harmful tobacco products and commend Chairwoman Beidle and Delegate Ampreyfor sponsoring this bill.

Youth vaping is a growing crisis, with **over 48,000 high school students** in Maryland self-reporting tobacco use. E-cigarettes are aggressively marketed to young people, making it even more difficult to keep our kids safe.

The long-term impact of tobacco use is alarming. Maryland spends **\$3.14 billion annually** on smoking-related healthcare costs, and more than **a quarter of cancer-related deaths** in our state are linked to tobacco. If we want to prevent another generation from falling into this cycle, we must act now.

SB 0842 provides much-needed enforcement power to ensure that e-cigarettes are regulated like other tobacco products. It also enhances record-keeping requirements for e-cigarette sales, an essential step in limiting youth access.

With **81% of Maryland voters** supporting stronger action against Big Tobacco, now is the time to act. I urge you to vote in favor of SB 0842 and help safeguard our children's health.

Thank you for your leadership on this issue.

Kofi Ray

# Written Testimony Letter\_ A. Rashid - S.pdf

Uploaded by: Nabeehah Azeez

Position: FAV

**Subject:** Protecting Our Children's Future – Support SB 0842

Dear Chairman Wilson,

As a **Muslim mother of two children—a toddler and a pre-teen—living in Baltimore City**, I am writing to express my strong support for SB 0842. As a parent, I am deeply concerned about the increasing availability and appeal of e-cigarettes to young people, and I support this bill because I want to ensure that my children grow up in a healthier, safer environment.

I am grateful for your leadership, as well as that of Delegate Amprey and Chairwoman Beidle, in sponsoring legislation that protects Maryland's youth from the dangers of tobacco products.

Raising children in Baltimore City presents unique challenges. In our communities, e-cigarettes and flavored tobacco products are heavily marketed, often placed in stores right at a child's eye level. I have seen firsthand how these products are designed to be attractive to young people—packaged in bright colors, advertised with sweet flavors, and falsely marketed as “harmless.” My pre-teen is already being exposed to peer pressure around vaping, and as a mother, I fear the long-term consequences if stronger measures aren't taken.

The statistics are alarming—**over 48,000 Maryland high school students** report using tobacco products, and that number is likely even higher. Meanwhile, Maryland incurs **\$3.14 billion annually** in healthcare costs due to smoking-related illnesses, and **27.5% of cancer-related deaths** in our state are linked to tobacco use. If we do not take action now, future generations, including my own children, will bear the consequences.

SB 0842 is a crucial step in preventing this. By giving the **Alcohol, Tobacco, and Cannabis Commission** the same enforcement power over e-cigarettes that it already has for traditional tobacco products, this bill will help limit youth access and hold businesses accountable. It will also require proper record-keeping for e-cigarette sales, ensuring that retailers comply with regulations meant to protect our children.

As a Muslim, my faith teaches me the importance of protecting our youth and preserving their health. Islam emphasizes personal responsibility and avoiding harmful substances. Allowing Big Tobacco to continue targeting our children with addictive products contradicts these values. It is our duty as parents, community members, and policymakers to act.

With **81% of Maryland voters** in support of stronger action against Big Tobacco, I urge you to vote in favor of SB 0842. This bill is not just about policy—it is about **protecting our children's future**.

Thank you for your leadership and commitment to Maryland's families.

**Sincerely,**

Janell Delaney

Baltimore City Resident & Concerned Mother

# **Written Testimony Letter\_ Imam E. El-Amin-S.pdf**

Uploaded by: Nabeehah Azeez

Position: FAV



# Muslim Community Cultural Center of Baltimore

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*Our Community... Our Responsibility!*

**3401 W. North Ave, Baltimore, MD 21216 | 443-253-3981 | [www.mcccb.com](http://www.mcccb.com)**

Senator Pam Beidle

Finance Committee, Chairman

3 East Miller Senate Office Building

11 Bladen St., Annapolis, MD 21401

February 25, 2025

**Re: Testimony on SB 0842 (HB 1241) - Other Tobacco Products and Electronic Smoking Devices- Seizure and Wholesaler Licensure Requirements**

**Position: Favorable** - A Moral Responsibility to Protect Our Youth – Support SB 0842

Dear Chairman Beidle,

I am writing as an Imam and an Islamic and general community leader in Baltimore City, to express my strong support for SB 0842. In my role, I counsel families and young people who struggle with the consequences of tobacco addiction. This bill is a necessary step in protecting the health and well-being of our children.

I commend you, Delegate Amprey, and Chairwoman Beidle for your commitment to protecting our youth from the harms of tobacco products, including e-cigarettes.

The rise of youth vaping is a crisis that cannot be ignored. The statistics are staggering—**over 48,000 high school students** in Maryland use tobacco products, and this number is likely an undercount. E-cigarette companies aggressively market their products to young people, increasing the risk of lifelong addiction.

As a faith leader, I see the moral imperative to protect our children from harmful substances. Tobacco-related illnesses cost Maryland **\$3.14 billion annually** in healthcare expenses and contribute to **27.5% of cancer-related deaths**. We must act decisively to prevent further harm.

SB 0842 strengthens enforcement against illegal e-cigarette sales and ensures that these products are regulated like other tobacco products. This legislation is a necessary step toward protecting the future of our youth.

With **81% of Maryland voters** supporting stronger regulations on tobacco products, it is clear that our communities demand action. I urge you to vote in favor of SB 0842.

Thank you for your leadership in protecting our children.

Sincerely,

*E. El-Amin*

Imam Earl El-Amin

Muslim Community Cultural Center of Baltimore

**Written Testimony Letter\_C.Willie-S.docx.pdf**

Uploaded by: Nabeehah Azeez

Position: FAV

# Muslim Community Cultural Center of Baltimore

*Our Community... Our Responsibility!*

Senator Pam Beidle

Finance Committee, Chairman

3 East Miller Senate Office Building

11 Bladen St., Annapolis, MD 21401

February 25, 2025

**Re: Testimony on SB 0842 - Other Tobacco Products and Electronic Smoking Devices- Seizure and Wholesaler Licensure Requirements**

**Position: Favorable** - Candice Willie supports SB0842/HB1241.

SB 0842/HB 1241 is legislation that aims to grant the Alcohol, Tobacco, and Cannabis Commission the same seizure powers over e-cigarettes that it already has over other tobacco products like cigarettes, to standardize the Commission's oversight and enforcement authority across the tobacco market. The legislation also brings e-cigarettes in line with regulations for other tobacco products, notably by requiring record keeping for the sale of e-cigarettes. These steps are crucial for ensuring the same healthcare and public health strategies and enforcement that protect Maryland's youth from traditional tobacco products are also available for e-cigarettes. **I urge passage of a bill without amendments, free from the type of regulatory loopholes Big Tobacco has exploited for decades.**

Flavored e-cigarettes lure kids into a life-long struggle with deadly addiction, hooking them on products in flavors like minty menthol, glazed donut, gummy bear, and cotton candy.

I currently sit on the board of the Muslim Community Cultural Center of Baltimore. I am also a small business owner. Most importantly, I am a mother. As a muslim woman, I don't think people should use products that cause the type of harm and devastation that tobacco products cause; but, I understand that individuals have the free will to do as they choose. As a mother, I hope to teach my child about the dangers of all tobacco products and I hope that when my daughter goes out into the world she is not tempted by tobacco products with candy-like flavors. Our children are our world's most valuable asset and we should be promoting them to engage in positive things. We should not be distracting them with ill regulated e-cigarettes that can harm them and, through second-hand smoke, harm others. For decades, the tobacco industry has targeted Black and Brown communities with their predatory marketing and as they move into the promotion of new e-cigarette products, I do not want my daughter to be among their next target audience.

To protect the health and futures of Maryland's youth, we must continue to safeguard our children from tobacco which means including e-cigarettes in existing regulations. I Urge Maryland legislators to vote yes on SB 0842.

Sincerely,

*Candice Willie*

Candice Willie,

Mother, Business Owner, Woman of Faith

**3401 W. North Ave, Baltimore, MD 21216 | 443-253-3981 | [www.mcccb.com](http://www.mcccb.com)**

**Written Testimony Letter\_M. Hammett - S.docx.pdf**

Uploaded by: Nabeehah Azeez

Position: FAV



514 Islamic Way | Baltimore, Maryland 21217 | [www.muhb.org](http://www.muhb.org) | 410-728-1363

Senator Pam Beidle

Finance Committee, Chairman

3 East Miller Senate Office Building

11 Bladen St., Annapolis, MD 21401

February 25, 2025

**Re: Testimony on SB 0842 (HB 1241) - *Other Tobacco Products and Electronic Smoking Devices- Seizure and Wholesaler Licensure Requirements***

**Position: Favorable**

**Subject: Protecting Vulnerable Communities – Support SB 0842**

Dear Chairman Beidle,

As a faith leader and community advocate in Baltimore City, I am writing to urge your support for SB 0842. I am the lead administrator at Masjid Ul Haqq - Baltimore (MUHB). Outside of my role at MUHB, my work focuses on improving health and equity in underserved communities, where the impact of youth tobacco use is particularly severe. I support this bill because it will help protect the most vulnerable members of our society.

Thank you Chairwoman Beidle, Delegate Amprey and Chairman Wilson, for your leadership in sponsoring this legislation.

Tobacco companies have long targeted low-income and minority communities with aggressive marketing tactics. As a result, youth in these areas are disproportionately affected by tobacco use, leading to higher rates of addiction and long-term health complications.

Maryland already spends **\$3.14 billion** annually on tobacco-related healthcare costs, and too many of our young people are being funneled into a cycle of addiction that is difficult to break. We must take a stand against Big Tobacco's predatory tactics.

SB 0842 is a necessary measure to strengthen enforcement against illegal e-cigarette sales and regulate these products like other tobacco items. This legislation is critical to protecting Maryland's youth—especially those in at-risk communities.

With **81% of Maryland voters** supporting action against Big Tobacco, I urge you to vote in favor of SB 0842.

Thank you for considering this vital issue.

Sincerely,

*Moses Hammett*

Moses Hammett

MUHB Board Member, Community Advocate & Faith Leader

**Written Testimony Letter\_N. Azeez-S.docx.pdf**

Uploaded by: Nabeehah Azeez

Position: FAV



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Senator Pam Beidle

Finance Committee, Chairman

3 East Miller Senate Office Building

11 Bladen St., Annapolis, MD 21401

February 25, 2025

**Re: Testimony on SB 0842 (HB 1241) - Other Tobacco Products and Electronic Smoking Devices- Seizure and Wholesaler Licensure Requirements**

**Position: Favorable**

My name is Nabeehah Azeez and I am writing to you as a community worker in Central West Baltimore in support of SB 0842. SB 0842 (HB 1241) is legislation that aims to grant the Alcohol, Tobacco, and Cannabis Commission the same seizure powers over e-cigarettes that it already has over other tobacco products like cigarettes, to standardize the Commission's oversight and enforcement authority across the tobacco market. The legislation also brings e-cigarettes in line with regulations for other tobacco products, notably by requiring record keeping for the sale of e-cigarettes. These steps are crucial for ensuring the same healthcare and public health strategies and enforcement that protect Maryland's youth from traditional tobacco products are also available for e-cigarettes. **I urge you to pass an amendment free bill, without the type of regulatory loopholes Big Tobacco has exploited for decades.**

Flavored e-cigarettes, like traditional tobacco products, lure kids into a life-long struggle with deadly addiction. This is done under the guise of a safer, cleaner or less harmful product. Unfortunately e-cigarettes are not safe, they are bad for your heart and lungs, and they are just as addictive as traditional cigarettes. Most importantly, flavored e-cigarettes are causing a new generation to get hooked on nicotine!

I currently serve on the board of the Masjid Ul Haqq - Baltimore an Islamic faith institution that has been rooted in the Upton community for nearly 70 years. I am also a small business owner. Most importantly, I serve my community through my employment and my volunteer service which allows me to see the devastation of tobacco products on a daily basis. It is not uncommon to see young people, who are not old enough to buy cigarettes on their own, hooked on electronic tobacco and vape products. Despite efforts to reduce tobacco use, **over 48,000 Maryland high school students** report using tobacco products, particularly e-cigarettes. This is why it is critical that we ensure that existing legislation is expanded to include e-cigarettes.

With **81% of Maryland voters** in support of stronger tobacco laws, now is the time to act. **I urge you to pass SB 0842 (HB 1241) for the health of our children and our communities.**

Sincerely,

*Nabeehah Azeez*

Nabeehah Azeez,

MUHB Board Member, Community Worker & Muslim Woman

**Written Testimony Letter\_S. Franklin - S.docx.pdf**

Uploaded by: Nabeehah Azeez

Position: FAV





514 Islamic Way | Baltimore, Maryland 21217 | [www.muhb.org](http://www.muhb.org) | 410-728-1363

Senator Pam Beidle

Finance Committee, Chairman

3 East Miller Senate Office Building

11 Bladen St., Annapolis, MD 21401

February 25, 2025

**Re: Testimony on SB 0842 (HB 1241) - *Other Tobacco Products and Electronic Smoking Devices- Seizure and Wholesaler Licensure Requirements***

**Position: Favorable**

**Subject:** Protecting Our Children from E-Cigarettes – Support SB 0842

Dear Chairman Beidle

I am writing to you as a Mother of two young children living in Baltimore City, to express my strong support for SB 0842. As a parent, I have witnessed firsthand how easily young people are exposed to tobacco products, particularly e-cigarettes. I support this bill because I want to ensure a healthier future for my children and their peers.

I deeply appreciate your past efforts to protect our youth from tobacco, as well as Chairwoman Beidle and Delegate Amprey for their leadership in sponsoring this critical legislation.

Despite the progress made in tobacco control, youth vaping remains a major issue. Reports show that over 48,000 Maryland high school students use tobacco products—a number that is likely even higher in reality. Flavored e-cigarettes and targeted marketing strategies make it easy for Big Tobacco to lure kids into addiction, creating long-term health consequences.

The impact of youth tobacco use is devastating—not only for families like mine but for our entire state. Maryland faces **\$3.14 billion** in annual healthcare costs directly related to smoking, and tobacco contributes to **27.5% of cancer-related deaths** in our state. We need to take immediate action to reduce the availability and appeal of these products to our children.

SB 0842 would empower the **Alcohol, Tobacco, and Cannabis Commission** with the same seizure powers for e-cigarettes that it already has for other tobacco products. It would also require record-keeping for e-cigarette sales—important steps toward curbing youth access to these harmful products.

Public support for this issue is clear: **81% of Maryland voters** want stronger measures to keep tobacco products out of kids' hands. I urge you to vote in favor of SB 0842 and continue leading efforts to protect Maryland's children.

Thank you for considering this important legislation.

*Samirah Franklin*

**B.Rodriguez\_TestimonySB842.docx.pdf**

Uploaded by: No Boundaries Youth Organizers

Position: FAV



Senator Pam Beidle  
Finance Committee, Chairman  
3 East Miller Senate Office Building  
11 Bladen St., Annapolis, MD 21401

February 21, 2025

RE: SB 842 - Other Tobacco Products and Electronic Smoking Devices - Seizure and Wholesaler Licensure Requirements

POSITION: FAVORABLE

Dear Chairwoman Beidle,

I am writing to you as an educator, living in Baltimore City, to express my support for SB842, and thank you for your leadership in sponsoring this bill. I support this bill because I believe that more control is needed on tobacco products.

Despite progress in tobacco control, the problem of youth access to tobacco products, particularly e-cigarettes, remains significant. Data indicates that over 48,000 Maryland high school students self-report that they use tobacco products, a number that likely falls short of the true total. The marketing strategies and new products like flavored e-cigarettes target and hook kids, Big Tobacco's next generation of customers.



The impact of youth tobacco use is both a public health and economic burden. Maryland incurs annual healthcare costs of approximately \$3.14 billion directly related to smoking, and 27.5% of cancer-related Maryland deaths can be traced to tobacco use. We must act now to mitigate its influence on the health of our children and our communities at large.

As you know, SB842 proposes to grant the Alcohol, Tobacco, and Cannabis Commission the same seizure powers over e-cigarettes that it already has over other tobacco products like cigarettes, to make uniform the Commission's oversight and enforcement authority across the tobacco market. The legislation also brings e-cigarettes in line with regulations for other tobacco products, notably by requiring records keeping for the sale of e-cigarettes. These steps are crucial for ensuring the same healthcare and public health strategies and enforcement that protect Maryland's youth from products like cigarettes are also available for e-cigarettes.

The need for this legislation is broadly recognized. In 2024, polling showed eighty-one percent of Maryland voters supported action against Big Tobacco to safeguard our children. I urge your committee to vote in favor of SB 842 and continue your strong track record of protecting our children from the dangers of tobacco.

Thank you for your consideration and for taking a stand with me.

Sincerely,  
Brenda Rodriguez

Community School Coordinator & Educator

**DevinG\_SB842Testimony .docx.pdf**

Uploaded by: No Boundaries Youth Organizers

Position: FAV

Senator Pam Beidle  
Finance Committee, Chairman  
3 East Miller Senate Office Building  
11 Bladen St., Annapolis, MD 21401

February 21, 2025

RE: SB 842 - Other Tobacco Products and Electronic Smoking Devices - Seizure and Wholesaler Licensure Requirements

POSITION: FAVORABLE

Dear Chairwoman Beidle,

I am writing to you as a student and youth organizer, living in Baltimore City, to express my support for SB842, and thank you for your leadership in sponsoring this bill. I support this bill because I believe that more control is needed on tobacco products.

Despite progress in tobacco control, the problem of youth access to tobacco products, particularly e-cigarettes, remains significant. Data indicates that over 48,000 Maryland high school students self-report that they use tobacco products, a number that likely falls short of the true total. The marketing strategies and new products like flavored e-cigarettes target and hook kids, Big Tobacco's next generation of customers.

The impact of youth tobacco use is both a public health and economic burden. Maryland incurs annual healthcare costs of approximately \$3.14 billion directly related to smoking, and 27.5% of cancer-related Maryland deaths can be traced to tobacco use. We must

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The need for this legislation is broadly recognized. In 2024, polling showed eighty-one percent of Maryland voters supported action against Big Tobacco to safeguard our children. I urge your committee to vote in favor of SB 842 and continue your strong track record of protecting our children from the dangers of tobacco.

Thank you for your consideration and for taking a stand with me.

Sincerely,  
Devin Green  
Youth Organizer

**JaidaB\_SB842Testimony .docx.pdf**

Uploaded by: No Boundaries Youth Organizers

Position: FAV



Senator Pam Beidle  
Finance Committee, Chairman  
3 East Miller Senate Office Building  
11 Bladen St., Annapolis, MD 21401

February 21, 2025

RE: SB 842 - Other Tobacco Products and Electronic Smoking Devices - Seizure and Wholesaler Licensure Requirements

POSITION: FAVORABLE

Dear Chairwoman Beidle,

I am writing to you as a student and youth organizer, living in Baltimore City, to express my support for SB842, and thank you for your leadership in sponsoring this bill. I support this bill because I believe that more control is needed on tobacco products.

Despite progress in tobacco control, the problem of youth access to tobacco products, particularly e-cigarettes, remains significant. Data indicates that over 48,000 Maryland high school students self-report that they use tobacco products, a number that likely falls short of the true total. The marketing strategies and new products like flavored e-cigarettes target and hook kids, Big Tobacco's next generation of customers.

The impact of youth tobacco use is both a public health and economic burden. Maryland incurs annual healthcare costs of approximately \$3.14 billion directly related to smoking, and 27.5% of cancer-related Maryland deaths can be traced to tobacco use. We must

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The need for this legislation is broadly recognized. In 2024, polling showed eighty-one percent of Maryland voters supported action against Big Tobacco to safeguard our children. I urge your committee to vote in favor of SB 842 and continue your strong track record of protecting our children from the dangers of tobacco.

Thank you for your consideration and for taking a stand with me.

Sincerely,  
Jaida Baltimore  
Youth Organizer

**JTraynham\_TestimonySB842.docx.pdf**

Uploaded by: No Boundaries Youth Organizers

Position: FAV

Senator Pam Beidle  
Finance Committee, Chairman  
3 East Miller Senate Office Building  
11 Bladen St., Annapolis, MD 21401

February 21, 2025

RE: SB 842 - Other Tobacco Products and Electronic Smoking Devices - Seizure and Wholesaler Licensure Requirements

POSITION: FAVORABLE

Dear Chairwoman Beidle,

I am writing to you as a young professional, working in Baltimore City, to express my support for SB842, and thank you for your leadership in sponsoring this bill. I support this bill because I believe that more control is needed on tobacco products.

Despite progress in tobacco control, the problem of youth access to tobacco products, particularly e-cigarettes, remains significant. Data indicates that over 48,000 Maryland high school students self-report that they use tobacco products, a number that likely falls short of the true total. The marketing strategies and new products like flavored e-cigarettes target and hook kids, Big Tobacco's next generation of customers.

The impact of youth tobacco use is both a public health and economic burden. Maryland incurs annual healthcare costs of approximately \$3.14 billion directly related to smoking, and 27.5% of cancer-related Maryland deaths can be traced to tobacco use. We must

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The need for this legislation is broadly recognized. In 2024, polling showed eighty-one percent of Maryland voters supported action against Big Tobacco to safeguard our children. I urge your committee to vote in favor of SB 842 and continue your strong track record of protecting our children from the dangers of tobacco.

Thank you for your consideration and for taking a stand with me.

Sincerely,  
James Traynham

**K.MooreSB842Testimony .docx.pdf**

Uploaded by: No Boundaries Youth Organizers

Position: FAV

Senator Pam Beidle  
Finance Committee, Chairman  
3 East Miller Senate Office Building  
11 Bladen St., Annapolis, MD 21401

February 21, 2025

RE: SB 842 - Other Tobacco Products and Electronic Smoking Devices - Seizure and Wholesaler Licensure Requirements

POSITION: FAVORABLE

Dear Chairwoman Beidle,

I am writing to you as a student and youth organizer, living in Baltimore City, to express my support for SB842, and thank you for your leadership in sponsoring this bill. I support this bill because I believe that more control is needed on tobacco products.

Despite progress in tobacco control, the problem of youth access to tobacco products, particularly e-cigarettes, remains significant. Data indicates that over 48,000 Maryland high school students self-report that they use tobacco products, a number that likely falls short of the true total. The marketing strategies and new products like flavored e-cigarettes target and hook kids, Big Tobacco's next generation of customers.

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The need for this legislation is broadly recognized. In 2024, polling showed eighty-one percent of Maryland voters supported action against Big Tobacco to safeguard our children. I urge your committee to vote in favor of SB 842 and continue your strong track record of protecting our children from the dangers of tobacco.

Thank you for your consideration and for taking a stand with me.

Sincerely,  
Kaniyah Mooore  
Youth Organizer



**KhayiaB\_SB842Testimony .docx.pdf**

Uploaded by: No Boundaries Youth Organizers

Position: FAV

Senator Pam Beidle  
Finance Committee, Chairman  
3 East Miller Senate Office Building  
11 Bladen St., Annapolis, MD 21401

February 21, 2025

RE: SB 842 - Other Tobacco Products and Electronic Smoking Devices - Seizure and Wholesaler Licensure Requirements

POSITION: FAVORABLE

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The need for this legislation is broadly recognized. In 2024, polling showed eighty-one percent of Maryland voters supported action against Big Tobacco to safeguard our children. I urge your committee to vote in favor of SB 842 and continue your strong track record of protecting our children from the dangers of tobacco.

Thank you for your consideration and for taking a stand with me.

Sincerely,  
Khayia Brown  
Youth Organizer

**MickaylaM\_SB842Testimony .docx.pdf**

Uploaded by: No Boundaries Youth Organizers

Position: FAV

Senator Pam Beidle  
Finance Committee, Chairman  
3 East Miller Senate Office Building  
11 Bladen St., Annapolis, MD 21401

February 21, 2025

RE: SB 842 - Other Tobacco Products and Electronic Smoking Devices - Seizure and Wholesaler Licensure Requirements

POSITION: FAVORABLE

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The need for this legislation is broadly recognized. In 2024, polling showed eighty-one percent of Maryland voters supported action against Big Tobacco to safeguard our children. I urge your committee to vote in favor of SB 842 and continue your strong track record of protecting our children from the dangers of tobacco.

Thank you for your consideration and for taking a stand with me.

Sincerely,  
Mikayla Marrow  
Youth Organizer

**NBCYouthProgramCoordinator\_TestimonySB842.docx.pdf**

Uploaded by: No Boundaries Youth Organizers

Position: FAV



Senator Pam Beidle  
Finance Committee, Chairman  
3 East Miller Senate Office Building  
11 Bladen St., Annapolis, MD 21401

February 21, 2025

RE: SB 842 - Other Tobacco Products and Electronic Smoking Devices - Seizure and Wholesaler Licensure Requirements

POSITION: FAVORABLE

Dear Chairwoman Beidle,

I am writing to you as a Youth Program Coordinator, with No Boundaries Coalition to express my support for SB842, and thank you for your leadership in sponsoring this bill. I support this bill because I believe that more control is needed on tobacco products.

Despite progress in tobacco control, the problem of youth access to tobacco products, particularly e-cigarettes, remains significant. Data indicates that over 48,000 Maryland high school students self-report that they use tobacco products, a number that likely falls short of the true total. The marketing strategies and new products like flavored e-cigarettes target and hook kids, Big Tobacco's next generation of customers.





The impact of youth tobacco use is both a public health and economic burden. Maryland incurs annual healthcare costs of approximately \$3.14 billion directly related to smoking, and 27.5% of cancer-related Maryland deaths can be traced to tobacco use. We must act now to mitigate its influence on the health of our children and our communities at large.

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The need for this legislation is broadly recognized. In 2024, polling showed eighty-one percent of Maryland voters supported action against Big Tobacco to safeguard our children. I urge your committee to vote in favor of SB 842 and continue your strong track record of protecting our children from the dangers of tobacco.

Thank you for your consideration and for taking a stand with me.

Sincerely,  
Nic Hazell

No Boundaries Coalition

**NBCYouthProgramDirector\_TestimonySB842.docx.pdf**

Uploaded by: No Boundaries Youth Organizers

Position: FAV



Senator Pam Beidle  
Finance Committee, Chairman  
3 East Miller Senate Office Building  
11 Bladen St., Annapolis, MD 21401

February 21, 2025

RE: SB 842 - Other Tobacco Products and Electronic Smoking Devices - Seizure and Wholesaler Licensure Requirements

POSITION: FAVORABLE

Dear Chairwoman Beidle,

I am writing to you as a Youth Program Director, with No Boundaries Coalition to express my support for SB842, and thank you for your leadership in sponsoring this bill. I support this bill because I believe that more control is needed on tobacco products.

Despite progress in tobacco control, the problem of youth access to tobacco products, particularly e-cigarettes, remains significant. Data indicates that over 48,000 Maryland high school students self-report that they use tobacco products, a number that likely falls short of the true total. The marketing strategies and new products like flavored e-cigarettes target and hook kids, Big Tobacco's next generation of customers.



The impact of youth tobacco use is both a public health and economic burden. Maryland incurs annual healthcare costs of approximately \$3.14 billion directly related to smoking, and 27.5% of cancer-related Maryland deaths can be traced to tobacco use. We must act now to mitigate its influence on the health of our children and our communities at large.

As you know, SB842 proposes to grant the Alcohol, Tobacco, and Cannabis Commission the same seizure powers over e-cigarettes that it already has over other tobacco products like cigarettes, to make uniform the Commission's oversight and enforcement authority across the tobacco market. The legislation also brings e-cigarettes in line with regulations for other tobacco products, notably by requiring records keeping for the sale of e-cigarettes. These steps are crucial for ensuring the same healthcare and public health strategies and enforcement that protect Maryland's youth from products like cigarettes are also available for e-cigarettes.

The need for this legislation is broadly recognized. In 2024, polling showed eighty-one percent of Maryland voters supported action against Big Tobacco to safeguard our children. I urge your committee to vote in favor of SB 842 and continue your strong track record of protecting our children from the dangers of tobacco.

Thank you for your consideration and for taking a stand with me.

Sincerely,  
Shawnice Jackson

No Boundaries Coalition

# **T.Thames\_TestimonySB842.docx.pdf**

Uploaded by: No Boundaries Youth Organizers

Position: FAV

Senator Pam Beidle  
Finance Committee, Chairman  
3 East Miller Senate Office Building  
11 Bladen St., Annapolis, MD 21401

February 21, 2025

RE: SB 842 - Other Tobacco Products and Electronic Smoking Devices - Seizure and Wholesaler Licensure Requirements

POSITION: FAVORABLE

Dear Chairwoman Beidle,

I am writing to you as a young professional, working in Baltimore City, to express my support for SB842, and thank you for your leadership in sponsoring this bill. I support this bill because I believe that more control is needed on tobacco products.

Despite progress in tobacco control, the problem of youth access to tobacco products, particularly e-cigarettes, remains significant. Data indicates that over 48,000 Maryland high school students self-report that they use tobacco products, a number that likely falls short of the true total. The marketing strategies and new products like flavored e-cigarettes target and hook kids, Big Tobacco's next generation of customers.

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The need for this legislation is broadly recognized. In 2024, polling showed eighty-one percent of Maryland voters supported action against Big Tobacco to safeguard our children. I urge your committee to vote in favor of SB 842 and continue your strong track record of protecting our children from the dangers of tobacco.

Thank you for your consideration and for taking a stand with me.

Sincerely,  
Tavon Thames

# **SB842 Tobacco.pdf**

Uploaded by: Pamela Beidle

Position: FAV



**PAMELA G. BEIDLE**  
*Legislative District 32*  
Anne Arundel County

Chair, Finance Committee

Executive Nominations Committee

Joint Committee on Gaming Oversight

Joint Committee on Management  
of Public Funds

Spending Affordability Committee



Miller Senate Office Building  
11 Bladen Street, Suite 3 East  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
410-841-3593 · 301-858-3593  
800-492-7122 Ext. 3593  
Pamela.Beidle@senate.state.md.us

**THE SENATE OF MARYLAND**  
**ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401**

February 27, 2025

**SB 842**

**Other Tobacco Products and Electronic Smoking Devices – Seizure and Wholesaler Licensure Requirement**

Good afternoon Vice Chair Hayes and Members of the Finance Committee;

Thank you for the opportunity to present SB 842, Other Tobacco Products and Electronic Smoking Devices – Seizure and Wholesaler Licensure Requirement. Though Maryland has made important strides on tobacco control, the problem of youth access to tobacco products, particularly electronic smoking devices, remains significant. Big Tobacco is persistent in targeting children, and so we too must remain persistent in protecting these children from their products.

I have included several sponsor amendments with SB 842. The amendments arise from conversations we had with ATCC that further align the bill with their current practices. SB 842 with the amendments, seeks to close a loophole in our tobacco enforcement laws, and by doing so, strengthen the Alcohol, Tobacco, and Cannabis Commission's ("ATCC") enforcement powers for electronic smoking devices.

The ATCC is currently able to seize tobacco products like cigarettes in carrying out its enforcement authority. Notably absent from any seizure authority, however, is authorizing language that allows it to seize electronic smoking devices for any violations. SB 842 would grant the ATCC this seizure power.

A similar loophole exists in the record keeping requirements for electronic smoking devices. Though other tobacco products are subject to record keeping requirements that include key information like who the products were purchased from, what retailers they may be sold to, and supporting information like quantities and dates of sale, electronic smoking devices are not subject to these same record keeping requirements. SB 842 would bring electronic smoking devices under the same record keeping requirements that other tobacco products are subject to.

These steps are critical for ensuring the same strategies and enforcement that protect Maryland's youth from products like cigarettes are also available for electronic smoking devices, which as you know, are a particularly prominent market with young smokers.



The need for this legislation is broadly recognized. In 2024, polling showed eighty-one percent of Maryland voters supported action against Big Tobacco to safeguard our children. The facts make clear why concern is so widespread. Over 48,000 Maryland high school students self-report that they use tobacco products, a number that likely falls short of the true total.

The impacts of tobacco use are significant. Maryland incurs annual healthcare costs of approximately \$3.14 billion directly related to smoking, and 27.5% of cancer-related deaths in Maryland can be traced to tobacco use.

For these reasons, I respectfully request a favorable report on SB 842, with sponsor amendments, and continue your strong track record of protecting our children from the dangers of tobacco. Thank you for your attention.



**naacp tobacco free kids senate.pdf**

Uploaded by: Ricarra Jones

Position: FAV



**Ricarra Jones**  
*President & Labor Relations  
Chair*

**James A. Brown**  
*Secretary*

**William Honablew, Esq.**  
*Treasurer*

**Dea Thomas**  
*Assistant Secretary*

**Lisa Hodges-Hiken**  
*Executive Committee At Large  
& Housing Chair*

**Klara Annibal**  
*Health Committee Chair*

**Nicole Chang**  
*Public Safety Chair*

**Danielle Ferrantino**  
*Education Chair*

**Nashona Kess, Esq.**  
*Legal Redress Chair*

February 24, 2025

RE: SB 842 - Other Tobacco Products and Electronic Smoking Devices - Seizure and Wholesaler Licensure Requirements

POSITION: FAVORABLE

Dear Chairwoman Beidle,

The Baltimore City Branch of the NAACP supports SB842 because the impact of youth tobacco use is both a public health and economic burden. We must act now to mitigate its influence on the health of our children and our communities at large.

Despite progress in tobacco control, the problem of youth access to tobacco products, particularly e-cigarettes, remains significant. Data indicates that over 48,000 Maryland high school students self-report that they use tobacco products, a number that likely falls short of the true total. The marketing strategies and new products like flavored e-cigarettes target and hook kids, Big Tobacco's next generation of customers.

The impact of youth tobacco use is both a public health and economic burden. Maryland incurs annual healthcare costs of approximately \$3.14 billion directly related to smoking, and 27.5% cancer-related Maryland deaths can be traced to tobacco use. We must act now to mitigate its influence on the health our children and our communities at large.

As you know, SB842 proposes to grant the Alcohol, Tobacco, and Cannabis Commission the same seizure powers over e-cigarettes that it already has over other tobacco products like cigarettes, to make uniform the Commission's oversight and enforcement authority across the tobacco market. The legislation also brings e-cigarettes in line with regulations for other tobacco products, notably by requiring records keeping for the sale of e-cigarettes. These steps are crucial for ensuring the same healthcare and public health strategies and enforcement that protect Maryland's youth from products like cigarettes are also available for e-cigarettes.

The need for this legislation is broadly recognized. In 2024, polling showed eighty-one percent of Maryland voters supported action against Big Tobacco to safeguard our children. I urge your committee to vote in favor of SB 842, and continue your strong track record of protecting our children from the dangers of tobacco.

Thank you for your consideration and for taking a stand with me.

Sincerely,  
Ricarra Jones

Acting President Baltimore City Branch NAACP



**SB842- THP.docx.pdf**

Uploaded by: Shaleece Williams

Position: FAV





**Tree House Project, Inc.**

Senator Pam Beidle  
Finance Committee, Chairman  
3 East Miller Senate Office Building  
11 Bladen St., Annapolis, MD 21401

February 21, 2025

RE: SB 842 - Other Tobacco Products and Electronic Smoking Devices - Seizure and Wholesaler Licensure Requirements

POSITION: FAVORABLE

Dear Chairwoman Beidle,

I am writing to you as a mother, mentor, and community advocate, living in Annapolis, to express my support for SB842, and thank you for your leadership in sponsoring this bill. I support this bill because it helps to protect the health of my children, mentees, and the overall community of youth who are at-risk of exposure to harmful influences.

Despite progress in tobacco control, the problem of youth access to tobacco products, particularly e-cigarettes, remains significant. Data indicates that over 48,000 Maryland high school students self-report that they use tobacco products, a number that likely falls short of the true total. The marketing strategies and new products like flavored e-cigarettes target and hook kids, Big Tobacco's next generation of customers.

The impact of youth tobacco use is both a public health and economic burden. Maryland incurs annual healthcare costs of approximately \$3.14 billion directly related to smoking, and 27.5% cancer-related Maryland deaths can be traced to tobacco use. We must act now to mitigate its influence on the health our children and our communities at large.

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**Tree House Project, Inc.**

same healthcare and public health strategies and enforcement that protect Maryland's youth from products like cigarettes are also available for e-cigarettes.

The need for this legislation is broadly recognized. In 2024, polling showed eighty-one percent of Maryland voters supported action against Big Tobacco to safeguard our children. I urge your committee to vote in favor of SB 842, and continue your strong track record of protecting our children from the dangers of tobacco.

Thank you for your consideration and for taking a stand with me.

Sincerely,

Sincerely,

*Shaleece Williams*

Shaleece Williams, Executive Director

Tree House Project, Inc.

**SB842 Letter - Comacell.docx.pdf**

Uploaded by: Shaleece Williams

Position: FAV



**Tree House Project, Inc.**

Senator Pam Beidle  
Finance Committee, Chairman  
3 East Miller Senate Office Building  
11 Bladen St., Annapolis, MD 21401

February 21, 2025

RE: SB 842 - Other Tobacco Products and Electronic Smoking Devices - Seizure and Wholesaler Licensure Requirements

POSITION: FAVORABLE

Dear Chairwoman Beidle,

I am writing to you as a community advocate and artist, living in Annapolis, to express my support for SB842, and thank you for your leadership in sponsoring this bill. I support this bill because it protects the health and future of our young people. I work with youth through my work and think it is important that we have law set in place that protect their opportunities to live healthy and fulfilled lives. I have always been against youth having access to anything that can be harmful to them including tobacco products in which they are likely to engage with under peer pressure and especially if they have access.

Despite progress in tobacco control, the problem of youth access to tobacco products, particularly e-cigarettes, remains significant. Data indicates that over 48,000 Maryland high school students self-report that they use tobacco products, a number that likely falls short of the true total. The marketing strategies and new products like flavored e-cigarettes target and hook kids, Big Tobacco's next generation of customers.

The impact of youth tobacco use is both a public health and economic burden. Maryland incurs annual healthcare costs of approximately \$3.14 billion directly related to smoking, and 27.5% cancer-related Maryland deaths can be traced to tobacco use. We must act now to mitigate its influence on the health our children and our communities at large.

As you know, SB842 proposes to grant the Alcohol, Tobacco, and Cannabis Commission the same seizure powers over e-cigarettes that it already has over other tobacco products like cigarettes, to make uniform the Commission's oversight and enforcement authority across the tobacco market. The legislation also brings



**Tree House Project, Inc.**

e-cigarettes in line with regulations for other tobacco products, notably by requiring records keeping for the sale of e-cigarettes. These steps are crucial for ensuring the same healthcare and public health strategies and enforcement that protect Maryland's youth from products like cigarettes are also available for e-cigarettes.

The need for this legislation is broadly recognized. In 2024, polling showed eighty-one percent of Maryland voters supported action against Big Tobacco to safeguard our children. I urge your committee to vote in favor of SB 842, and continue your strong track record of protecting our children from the dangers of tobacco.

Thank you for your consideration and for taking a stand with me.

Sincerely,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. [unclear] J.', is written below the second 'Sincerely,'.

**SB842 Letter - Dajanae W. .docx.pdf**

Uploaded by: Shaleece Williams

Position: FAV



**Tree House Project, Inc.**

Senator Pam Beidle  
Finance Committee, Chairman  
3 East Miller Senate Office Building  
11 Bladen St., Annapolis, MD 21401

February 21, 2025

RE: SB 842 - Other Tobacco Products and Electronic Smoking Devices - Seizure and Wholesaler Licensure Requirements

POSITION: FAVORABLE

Dear Chairwoman Beidle,

I am writing to you as a parent and community advocate living in Baltimore, to express my support for SB842, and thank you for your leadership in sponsoring this bill. As a mother and a mentor to young women, I am deeply invested in protecting their health, rights, and future. I want my children and the young women I guide to grow up in a world where they have every opportunity to succeed without unnecessary risks to their well-being. It is our duty to put safeguards in place that prevent harmful influences from jeopardizing their potential. This bill is an important measure to ensure that young women have the support and protection they need to make positive, informed choices for their lives.

Despite progress in tobacco control, the problem of youth access to tobacco products, particularly e-cigarettes, remains significant. Data indicates that over 48,000 Maryland high school students self-report that they use tobacco products, a number that likely falls short of the true total. The marketing strategies and new products like flavored e-cigarettes target and hook kids, Big Tobacco's next generation of customers.

The impact of youth tobacco use is both a public health and economic burden. Maryland incurs annual healthcare costs of approximately \$3.14 billion directly related to smoking, and 27.5% cancer-related Maryland deaths can be traced to tobacco use. We must act now to mitigate its influence on the health our children and our communities at large.

As you know, SB842 proposes to grant the Alcohol, Tobacco, and Cannabis Commission the same seizure powers over e-cigarettes that it already has over other tobacco products like cigarettes, to make uniform the Commission's oversight and



**Tree House Project, Inc.**

enforcement authority across the tobacco market. The legislation also brings e-cigarettes in line with regulations for other tobacco products, notably by requiring records keeping for the sale of e-cigarettes. These steps are crucial for ensuring the same healthcare and public health strategies and enforcement that protect Maryland's youth from products like cigarettes are also available for e-cigarettes.

The need for this legislation is broadly recognized. In 2024, polling showed eighty-one percent of Maryland voters supported action against Big Tobacco to safeguard our children. I urge your committee to vote in favor of SB 842, and continue your strong track record of protecting our children from the dangers of tobacco.

Thank you for your consideration and for taking a stand with me.

Sincerely,

*Dajanae Williams*

Dajanae Williams

Mentor - Tree House Project, Inc.



**SB842 Letter - Eric Davis.docx.pdf**

Uploaded by: Shaleece Williams

Position: FAV



**Tree House Project, Inc.**

Senator Pam Beidle  
Finance Committee, Chairman  
3 East Miller Senate Office Building  
11 Bladen St., Annapolis, MD 21401

February 21, 2025

RE: SB 842 - Other Tobacco Products and Electronic Smoking Devices - Seizure and Wholesaler Licensure Requirements

POSITION: FAVORABLE

Dear Chairwoman Beidle,

I am writing to you as a community advocate and event host, living in Annapolis, to express my support for SB842, and thank you for your leadership in sponsoring this bill. I support this bill because it safeguards the health and future of our young people. Through my work with youth, I recognize the importance of establishing laws that protect their opportunities to lead healthy and fulfilling lives. I have always opposed youth having access to harmful substances, including tobacco products, which they are more likely to engage with due to peer pressure—especially when access is readily available.

Despite progress in tobacco control, the problem of youth access to tobacco products, particularly e-cigarettes, remains significant. Data indicates that over 48,000 Maryland high school students self-report that they use tobacco products, a number that likely falls short of the true total. The marketing strategies and new products like flavored e-cigarettes target and hook kids, Big Tobacco's next generation of customers.

The impact of youth tobacco use is both a public health and economic burden. Maryland incurs annual healthcare costs of approximately \$3.14 billion directly related to smoking, and 27.5% cancer-related Maryland deaths can be traced to tobacco use. We must act now to mitigate its influence on the health our children and our communities at large.

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**Tree House Project, Inc.**

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The need for this legislation is broadly recognized. In 2024, polling showed eighty-one percent of Maryland voters supported action against Big Tobacco to safeguard our children. I urge your committee to vote in favor of SB 842, and continue your strong track record of protecting our children from the dangers of tobacco.

Thank you for your consideration and for taking a stand with me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Eric Davis', written in a cursive style.

Eric Davis

Community Advocate & Event Host

**SB842 Letter - Khayia Brown.docx.pdf**

Uploaded by: Shaleece Williams

Position: FAV



**Tree House Project, Inc.**

Senator Pam Beidle  
Finance Committee, Chairman  
3 East Miller Senate Office Building  
11 Bladen St., Annapolis, MD 21401

February 21, 2025

RE: SB 842 - Other Tobacco Products and Electronic Smoking Devices - Seizure and Wholesaler Licensure Requirements

POSITION: FAVORABLE

Dear Chairwoman Beidle,

I am writing to you as a peer mentor, youth organizer, and student living in Baltimore, to express my support for SB842, and thank you for your leadership in sponsoring this bill. I support this bill because I do not think young people like myself should have access to tobacco products like e-cigarettes. I know some of my peers who are able to purchase e-cigarettes and are attracted to e-cigarettes because of the type of advertisement they have. Some of my peers do not understand that it will have a long term impact on their life and health. So, I advocate to help them understand and to bring awareness.

Despite progress in tobacco control, the problem of youth access to tobacco products, particularly e-cigarettes, remains significant. Data indicates that over 48,000 Maryland high school students self-report that they use tobacco products, a number that likely falls short of the true total. The marketing strategies and new products like flavored e-cigarettes target and hook kids, Big Tobacco's next generation of customers.

The impact of youth tobacco use is both a public health and economic burden. Maryland incurs annual healthcare costs of approximately \$3.14 billion directly related to smoking, and 27.5% cancer-related Maryland deaths can be traced to tobacco use. We must act now to mitigate its influence on the health our children and our communities at large.

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**Tree House Project, Inc.**

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The need for this legislation is broadly recognized. In 2024, polling showed eighty-one percent of Maryland voters supported action against Big Tobacco to safeguard our children. I urge your committee to vote in favor of SB 842, and continue your strong track record of protecting our children from the dangers of tobacco.

Thank you for your consideration and for taking a stand with me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Khayia Brown'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Khayia Brown

Youth Organizer and Peer Mentor

**SB842 Letter - Lavon T. .docx.pdf**

Uploaded by: Shaleece Williams

Position: FAV



**Tree House Project, Inc.**

Senator Pam Beidle  
Finance Committee, Chairman  
3 East Miller Senate Office Building  
11 Bladen St., Annapolis, MD 21401

February 21, 2025

RE: SB 842 - Other Tobacco Products and Electronic Smoking Devices - Seizure and Wholesaler Licensure Requirements

POSITION: FAVORABLE

Dear Chairwoman Beidle,

I am writing to you as a youth organizer, and student living in Annapolis, to express my support for SB842, and thank you for your leadership in sponsoring this bill. I think this bill is really important because it helps keep kids like me safe and healthy. As a community organizer, I want to make sure my friends and I have a bright future without things that can hurt us. I believe that adults should help protect us by making good rules, and this bill does that. I want to grow up in a place where kids can make good choices and not be pressured into bad ones.

Despite progress in tobacco control, the problem of youth access to tobacco products, particularly e-cigarettes, remains significant. Data indicates that over 48,000 Maryland high school students self-report that they use tobacco products, a number that likely falls short of the true total. The marketing strategies and new products like flavored e-cigarettes target and hook kids, Big Tobacco's next generation of customers.

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**Tree House Project, Inc.**

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The need for this legislation is broadly recognized. In 2024, polling showed eighty-one percent of Maryland voters supported action against Big Tobacco to safeguard our children. I urge your committee to vote in favor of SB 842, and continue your strong track record of protecting our children from the dangers of tobacco.

Thank you for your consideration and for taking a stand with me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lavon Tilghman', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Lavon Tilghman

Youth Organizer

**SB842 Letter - Leslie D. .docx.pdf**

Uploaded by: Shaleece Williams

Position: FAV



**Tree House Project, Inc.**

Senator Pam Beidle  
Finance Committee, Chairman  
3 East Miller Senate Office Building  
11 Bladen St., Annapolis, MD 21401

February 21, 2025

RE: SB 842 - Other Tobacco Products and Electronic Smoking Devices - Seizure and Wholesaler Licensure Requirements

POSITION: FAVORABLE

Dear Chairwoman Beidle,

I am writing to you as a mother and community organizer living in Baltimore, to express my support for SB842, and thank you for your leadership in sponsoring this bill. As a mother and community organizer, I am committed to creating a safer and healthier future for our young people. I see firsthand the challenges they face and the importance of policies that protect their well-being. It is our responsibility to ensure they have the support and safeguards needed to thrive. This bill is a crucial step in preventing harmful influences from limiting their potential and helps us build a stronger, healthier community for the next generation.

Despite progress in tobacco control, the problem of youth access to tobacco products, particularly e-cigarettes, remains significant. Data indicates that over 48,000 Maryland high school students self-report that they use tobacco products, a number that likely falls short of the true total. The marketing strategies and new products like flavored e-cigarettes target and hook kids, Big Tobacco's next generation of customers.

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**Tree House Project, Inc.**

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The need for this legislation is broadly recognized. In 2024, polling showed eighty-one percent of Maryland voters supported action against Big Tobacco to safeguard our children. I urge your committee to vote in favor of SB 842, and continue your strong track record of protecting our children from the dangers of tobacco.

Thank you for your consideration and for taking a stand with me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Leslie Davis', written in a cursive style.

Leslie Davis

**SB842 Letter - Marquis T. .docx.pdf**

Uploaded by: Shaleece Williams

Position: FAV



**Tree House Project, Inc.**

Senator Pam Beidle  
Finance Committee, Chairman  
3 East Miller Senate Office Building  
11 Bladen St., Annapolis, MD 21401

February 21, 2025

RE: SB 842 - Other Tobacco Products and Electronic Smoking Devices - Seizure and Wholesaler Licensure Requirements

POSITION: FAVORABLE

Dear Chairwoman Beidle,

I am writing to you as a youth organizer, student, and peer mentor living in Annapolis, to express my support for SB842, and thank you for your leadership in sponsoring this bill. As a mentor for the past five years, I have witnessed firsthand the challenges young people face and the importance of creating environments that support their growth and well-being. I believe we have a responsibility to protect their futures by implementing policies that prioritize their health and opportunities. Many of the young women I mentor look to me for guidance, and I want to ensure they are safeguarded from harmful influences that could impact their potential. This bill is a critical step in fostering a safer, healthier future for the next generation.

Despite progress in tobacco control, the problem of youth access to tobacco products, particularly e-cigarettes, remains significant. Data indicates that over 48,000 Maryland high school students self-report that they use tobacco products, a number that likely falls short of the true total. The marketing strategies and new products like flavored e-cigarettes target and hook kids, Big Tobacco's next generation of customers.

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**Tree House Project, Inc.**

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The need for this legislation is broadly recognized. In 2024, polling showed eighty-one percent of Maryland voters supported action against Big Tobacco to safeguard our children. I urge your committee to vote in favor of SB 842, and continue your strong track record of protecting our children from the dangers of tobacco.

Thank you for your consideration and for taking a stand with me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Marquis Tumpkin', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Marquis Tumpkin

Peer Mentor

**SB842 Letter - Monique S. .docx.pdf**

Uploaded by: Shaleece Williams

Position: FAV





**Tree House Project, Inc.**

Senator Pam Beidle  
Finance Committee, Chairman  
3 East Miller Senate Office Building  
11 Bladen St., Annapolis, MD 21401

February 21, 2025

RE: SB 842 - Other Tobacco Products and Electronic Smoking Devices - Seizure and Wholesaler Licensure Requirements

POSITION: FAVORABLE

Dear Chairwoman Beidle,

I am writing to you as a youth organizer, student, and peer mentor living in Baltimore, to express my support for SB842, and thank you for your leadership in sponsoring this bill. I support this bill because as a community leader and mentor to young women, I believe it is essential to protect their rights and secure their future. Young women deserve every opportunity to grow and thrive in a safe and healthy environment. I am committed to advocating for policies that safeguard their well-being and limit their exposure to harmful influences. This bill is a necessary step in ensuring that young women have the support and protections they need to make empowered choices for their future.

Despite progress in tobacco control, the problem of youth access to tobacco products, particularly e-cigarettes, remains significant. Data indicates that over 48,000 Maryland high school students self-report that they use tobacco products, a number that likely falls short of the true total. The marketing strategies and new products like flavored e-cigarettes target and hook kids, Big Tobacco's next generation of customers.

The impact of youth tobacco use is both a public health and economic burden. Maryland incurs annual healthcare costs of approximately \$3.14 billion directly related to smoking, and 27.5% cancer-related Maryland deaths can be traced to tobacco use. We must act now to mitigate its influence on the health our children and our communities at large.

As you know, SB842 proposes to grant the Alcohol, Tobacco, and Cannabis Commission the same seizure powers over e-cigarettes that it already has over other tobacco products like cigarettes, to make uniform the Commission's oversight and enforcement authority across the tobacco market. The legislation also brings



**Tree House Project, Inc.**

e-cigarettes in line with regulations for other tobacco products, notably by requiring records keeping for the sale of e-cigarettes. These steps are crucial for ensuring the same healthcare and public health strategies and enforcement that protect Maryland's youth from products like cigarettes are also available for e-cigarettes.

The need for this legislation is broadly recognized. In 2024, polling showed eighty-one percent of Maryland voters supported action against Big Tobacco to safeguard our children. I urge your committee to vote in favor of SB 842, and continue your strong track record of protecting our children from the dangers of tobacco.

Thank you for your consideration and for taking a stand with me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'MS' or 'MSE', written in a cursive style.

Monique Shelton-EI

Peer Mentor

**SB842 Letter - Nicole B. .docx.pdf**

Uploaded by: Shaleece Williams

Position: FAV



**Tree House Project, Inc.**

Senator Pam Beidle  
Finance Committee, Chairman  
3 East Miller Senate Office Building  
11 Bladen St., Annapolis, MD 21401

February 21, 2025

RE: SB 842 - Other Tobacco Products and Electronic Smoking Devices - Seizure and Wholesaler Licensure Requirements

POSITION: FAVORABLE

Dear Chairwoman Beidle,

I am writing to you as a parent and community advocate living in Baltimore, to express my support for SB842, and thank you for your leadership in sponsoring this bill. I support this bill because it is a part of the mission of the We Responder's Inc, in which I am the founder and director to advocate for safety within our community. Youth being advertised to and having access to e-cigarettes is a danger to their health and well-being.

Despite progress in tobacco control, the problem of youth access to tobacco products, particularly e-cigarettes, remains significant. Data indicates that over 48,000 Maryland high school students self-report that they use tobacco products, a number that likely falls short of the true total. The marketing strategies and new products like flavored e-cigarettes target and hook kids, Big Tobacco's next generation of customers.

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**Tree House Project, Inc.**

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Thank you for your consideration and for taking a stand with me.

Sincerely,

*N. Nicole Bryant*

Nicole Bryant, Executive Director

We Responders, Inc.

# **SB842 Written .pdf**

Uploaded by: Tyler Broady

Position: FAV



Senator Pam Beidle  
Finance Committee, Chairman  
3 East Miller Senate Office Building  
11 Bladen St., Annapolis, MD 21401

February 21, 2025

RE: SB 842 - Other Tobacco Products and Electronic Smoking Devices - Seizure and Wholesaler  
Licensure Requirements

POSITION: FAVORABLE

Dear Chairwoman Beidle,

I am writing to you as a youth advocate, living in Baltimore , to express my support for SB842, and thank you for your leadership in sponsoring this bill. I support this bill because The statistics are alarming—**more than 1 in 4 high school students** nationwide report using e-cigarettes. In Maryland, **81% of voters agree** that we need stronger action against Big Tobacco to protect our kids. Without proper enforcement and oversight, we are failing to shield young people from lifelong nicotine addiction.

Despite progress in tobacco control, the problem of youth access to tobacco products, particularly e-cigarettes, remains significant. Data indicates that over 48,000 Maryland high school students self-report that they use tobacco products, a number that likely falls short of the true total. The marketing strategies and new products like flavored e-cigarettes target and hook kids, Big Tobacco's next generation of customers.

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Thank you for your consideration and for taking a stand with me.

Sincerely,

Tyler N. Broady

Lead Youth Activation Coordinator

(443)756-8411

[www.cliayouth.org](http://www.cliayouth.org)

*A Career Is What You Paid For, Your Calling Is What You Made For - SH*



# **SB842\_OAG\_FWA**

Uploaded by: Anna MacCormack

Position: FWA

**CAROLYN A. QUATTROCKI**  
*Chief Deputy Attorney General*

**LEONARD J. HOWIE III**  
*Deputy Attorney General*

**CARRIE J. WILLIAMS**  
*Deputy Attorney General*

**ZENITA WICKHAM HURLEY**  
*Chief, Equity, Policy, and  
Engagement*



**STATE OF MARYLAND  
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL**

**ANTHONY G. BROWN**  
*Attorney General*

**PETER V. BERNS**  
*General Counsel*

**CHRISTIAN E. BARRERA**  
*Chief Operating Officer*

**ANNA MACCORMACK**  
*Assistant Attorney General*

February 25, 2025

**TO:** The Honorable Pamela Beidle  
Chair, Finance Committee

**FROM:** Anna MacCormack  
Assistant Attorney General, Office of the Attorney General

**RE:** Senate Bill 842 – Business Regulation – Other Tobacco Products and  
Electronic Smoking Devices – Seizure and Wholesaler Licensure  
Requirements

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The Office of Attorney General urges this Committee to report favorably with amendments on Senate Bill 842 – Business Regulation – Other Tobacco Products and Electronic Smoking Devices – Seizure and Wholesaler Licensure Requirements.

Senate Bill 842 includes changes to the Other Tobacco Products (“OTP”) that would improve the current law. These changes include granting the Maryland Alcohol, Tobacco, and Cannabis Commission (“ATCC”) or a peace officer authority to seize OTP that violates Title 16.5 without a warrant; providing a process for the return of seized OTP if there was no violation; and authorizing the ATCC to impose and collect costs of transportation, seizure, and disposal of seized OTP. The Office of the Attorney General (“OAG”) supports these changes.

The OAG believes the changes Senate Bill 842 proposes for existing ESD law would be improved through amendments that would make this Bill more effective. As written, Senate Bill 842 creates a third type of ESD wholesaler license, in addition to the existing licenses for ESD wholesaler distributors and ESD wholesaler importers. This new wholesaler license is much broader than the other two wholesalers and has fewer restrictions. Crucially, the Bill does not eliminate the license exemption contained in Md. Bus. Reg. § 16.7-102, meaning existing

cigarette or OTP wholesalers can continue to operate as ESD wholesalers without an ESD license.

Senate Bill 842 adds a requirement that the new ESD wholesaler licensees must retain and create certain business records, but the Bill does not mandate that the wholesalers provide reports or returns to any State agency using these records. Further, Senate Bill 842 makes these records available only to the ATCC, and does not explain how or when the ATCC would have reason to examine the records. Notably, the Comptroller, Department of Health, or OAG are not authorized to access these records. Additionally, Senate Bill 842's new requirements apply only to the new ESD wholesaler licensee, a feature that may discourage businesses from getting the new license to avoid any such onerous record-keeping requirements.

Senate Bill 842 authorizes the ATCC to seize ESDs sold or offered for sale in violation of Title 16.7 without a warrant, provides a process for the return of seized ESD if there was no violation, and authorizes the ATCC to impose and collect costs of transportation, seizure, and disposal of the ESDs it seizes. Although this explicit grant of authority to seize ESDs is a welcome clarification of the ATCC's power, Senate Bill 842 does not provide the ATCC with a clear legal basis for using this power, as only the Department of Health is currently authorized to inspect ESD retailers. Because there are only a few grounds for violating the current law governing ESDs, primarily concerning use of the license, and there is already a process for notice and hearings provided in the existing law, Senate Bill 842 is largely duplicative of current law. Nor does it provide any substantive basis the ATCC may rely on to exercise its new ESD seizure authority, severely limiting the impact of that authority.

The OAG recommends certain amendments that would enable Senate Bill 842 to better effectuate its goals of improving enforcement of ESDs. First, the Bill should strengthen the licensing system by requiring that all ESD businesses that manufacture, distribute, or sell ESDs in Maryland obtain an ESD license, and eliminate the ESD license exemption in the existing law. To ensure that ESDs are less accessible to youth, the Bill should eliminate the internet sales loophole for ESD manufacturers. It should also require that all entities in the chain of distribution buy and sell to entities that have Maryland ESD licenses.

To improve enforcement, Senate Bill 842 should authorize the ATCC to conduct unannounced inspections of licensed ESD businesses and allow the Maryland Department of Health to refer violations of the law to the ATCC for further enforcement. Currently, there are no Maryland laws concerning the ESD products permitted to be sold in the State. Senate Bill 842 could also create a system to authorize ESDs for sale in Maryland so that only authorized products may be legally sold in the State. Unauthorized ESDs should be deemed contraband and the ATCC may seize and dispose of such products. To better learn what products are sold, the bill should expand its record-keeping provisions to require regular reporting of ESD sales to the State to enable the State to track the products sold and ensure collection of all taxes. Finally, to improve inter-agency cooperation and improved enforcement of all laws, the Bill should enable the Comptroller and OAG to access the records of ESD sales.

Re: SB 842  
February 25, 2025  
Page 3

For the foregoing reasons, the Office of the Attorney General urges a favorable with amendments report on Senate Bill 842.

cc: Committee Members

**C.Gott favorable with ammend sb0842.pdf**

Uploaded by: Candice Gott

Position: FWA

Chair Beidle and Honorable Members of the Committee:

Favorable with amendments for SB0842

I'm writing to express my support, with amendments, for House Bill 1241 – Other Tobacco Products and Electronic Smoking Devices – Seizure and Wholesaler Licensure Requirements. The intention to crack down on bad actors in the tobacco and ESD markets is crucial, and I commend this initiative. However, as currently written, the bill will cause a clerical and compliance tornado, creating challenges for audits of both businesses and vendors which could render it unenforceable. We should focus on practical amendments that truly address the issues at hand.

I wholeheartedly support the bill's goal of enhancing the ATCC's enforcement authority, as this will protect public health and ensure a fair market. Increasing the power to seize products sold in violation of the law is necessary to eliminate rogue operators that endanger consumers and youth.

I propose an amendment to require all retailers selling electronic smoking devices to obtain a specific ESD retailer license or a vape shop vendor license. This will help regulate the market, ensuring compliance with ID checks, tax laws, and product safety standards. This standard alone will generate a specific list for the ATCC to work with. Currently, it would be burdensome and likely have no effect if vendors must register with the state- who will have the task of auditing this list and then auditing that list against retailers in Maryland? This will not work.

Additionally, it's vital to establish mandatory penalties for businesses that fail to collect or remit sales taxes on tobacco and ESD products. Many retailers are currently noncompliant, depriving the state of millions in revenue. Auditors are overwhelmed; we need clear consequences for tax evasion to deter bad actors and protect honest businesses.

I also recommend limiting the sale of larger-volume vape products (over 5ml) to licensed

vape shops. This measure would allow for tighter control and oversight, ensuring that these products are sold in responsible environments that prioritize public health and compliance.

Thank you,

Candice Gott

443-926-26

**SB0842-FIN\_MACo\_SWA.pdf**

Uploaded by: Karrington Anderson

Position: FWA





## **Senate Bill 842**

### *Other Tobacco Products and Electronic Smoking Devices - Seizure and Wholesaler Licensure Requirements*

MACo Position: **SUPPORT**

To: Finance Committee

**WITH AMENDMENTS**

Date: February 27, 2025

From: Karrington Anderson

The Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) **SUPPORTS SB 842 WITH AMENDMENTS**. This bill strengthens the enforcement of laws regulating other tobacco products and electronic smoking devices by granting the Executive Director of the Alcohol, Tobacco, and Cannabis Commission or a peace officer the authority to seize products sold or offered for sale in violation of the law without a warrant.

MACo appreciates the intent of SB 842 to minimize the illegal distribution of these products and ensure proper enforcement mechanisms. However, MACo respectfully requests clarifying amendments to ensure that enforcement responsibilities remain primarily with the Commission and their designated peace officers rather than falling disproportionately on local jurisdictions. The bill should specify that enforcement authority rests squarely with the Commission and its peace officers to prevent local jurisdictions from being burdened with staffing and resource demands. The seizure provision should be implemented so that it does not inadvertently create enforcement obligations for local law enforcement beyond their existing responsibilities. Record-keeping and compliance requirements for wholesalers, retailers, and enforcement agencies should be clearly defined to ensure effective oversight at the state level without excessive administrative burdens on local governments.

MACo is committed to working with the sponsor to refine these provisions so that they promote effective regulation while protecting local resources. These amendments will help strengthen enforcement against illegal sales while ensuring counties are not left to shoulder unintended responsibilities.

For these reasons, MACo urges the Committee to give SB 842 a **FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENTS** report.

**SB 842 testimony Finance.pdf**

Uploaded by: Kirk McCauley

Position: FWA



WMDA/CAR Service Station  
and Automotive Repair Association

Chair: Pamela Beidle, Vice Chair Antonio Hays, and members of Finance Committee

RE: SB 842

Position: Favorable with Amendments

My name is Kirk McCauley, my employer is WMDA/CAR, we represent service stations convenience stores and repair facilities across the state as a non- profit trade group.

Were this bill to move forward, Seizure Without a Warrant, should be removed from SB842.

Electronic Smoking Devices (ESD) enforcement for retailers should mirror those that are currently used for tobacco products. These procedures work for retailers and enforcement.

Any questions can be addressed to Kirk McCauley, 301-775-0221 or [kmccauley@wmda.net](mailto:kmccauley@wmda.net)

**SB842favorableammendment.pdf**

Uploaded by: Matthew Milby

Position: FWA

2/25/2025

SB 0842 – Favorable with amendments

Good Afternoon Chair/vice and members of the committee,

My name is Matthew Milby and I am a small business owner in Maryland along with being a disabled Army Veteran.

I am supporting SB0842 with amendments for HB 1241 as well. I like the intention to hold the bad actors in this industry accountable. Unfortunately as this bill is written will cause a compliance and a clerical mess. We would love to see practical amendments that affect the issue directly and swiftly.

I support the decision to make the ATCC enforcement authority greater to protect public health and increasing the ability to seize from the bad actors.

I would like to see an amendment to require all retailers to obtain a license specific to ESD's. With this we can easily regulate the market and ensuring compliance with the law. The ATCC needs a comprehensive list of all these license holders so they can do their job.

We also need to establish mandatory penalties for businesses that do not pay the correct tax or no tax or those who continue to sell for minors. We have literally flower shops in Maryland selling ESD's and businesses charging 0% tax, especially if your paying in cash. We have lots of businesses only charging 6% tax and some only 12%. It only takes a quick google search to find out who is selling to minors and they are your usually tax evasion people too.

I would also love to see the limitation of larger volume ESD's to licensed vape shops.(over 5mls) This would make enforcement and oversight a lot easier and would cost less money. I know MD is in a huge deficit problem right now and this would go a long way to ensure keeping costs down and making enforcement better. Vape shops have proven year after year to be the good actors of the industry and that is where ESD's need to majorly sold. Check enforcement violations and you will be hard pressed to find a single vape shop on that list. You will find a slew of smoke shops and tobacco shops and convenience stores who are actively selling to minors.

Thank you!

**SB0842 Testimony.pdf**

Uploaded by: Melissa Hendrix

Position: FWA

Melissa Hendrix

114 Tennessee Road

Stevensville, MD 21666

February 25, 2025

Committee members:

I support this bill with amendments. This is a great way to crack down on the bad actors within the tobacco and ESD markets. However, the way it is drafted will create more paperwork for an already understaffed state.

I support the goal of this bill giving the ATCC more enforcement authority. This will help to protect public health and provide a fair market for all. I find it necessary to give power to ATCC to seize products that are not to be sold within those certain locations. This will help to keep the bad actors in line in what they are a loud to do and not.

The amendment I would propose would be to require all retailers to obtain a specific ESD retailer license or a vape shop vendor license. This will help to define the retailers by providing a list to the ATCC on what products are to be sold at the specific locations. This will also help the state of Maryland and its consumers because it will regulate the market, ensuring compliance checks, tax laws, and product safety standards.

Currently we have many companies here in the state of Maryland that are not complying with the current sales tax which is hurting small vape shops that only sell vapes. Establishing mandatory penalties for businesses that fail to collect or remit sales taxes on tobacco and ESD products. Within the current situation auditors are overwhelmed and understaffed so we need clear consequences for tax evasion to deter bad actors and protect the good actors in the market.

For those who have a vape shop vendors license should have the ability to sell 5ml or more and would help to regulate our market better. These products should be sold in responsible vape shops that care about the safety of their consumers and public health.

**SB842 FWA MVA.pdf**

Uploaded by: Tyler Bennett

Position: FWA



## Maryland Vapor Alliance

### SB842 – Favorable w/ Amendment

#### Chair Beidle and Honorable Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the **Maryland Vapor Alliance**, which represents small business vape shops throughout the State of Maryland, I am writing to express **support with amendment** for **Senate Bill 842 – Other Tobacco Products and Electronic Smoking Devices – Seizure and Wholesaler Licensure Requirements**. This legislation's goal of cracking down on bad actors in the tobacco and electronic smoking device (ESD) market is critically important. I thank the sponsor and applaud the bill's intent, but would urge the committee to consider further amendments.

### Support for Strengthening Enforcement Authority

First and foremost, I support SB842's core purpose of **increasing the ATCC's enforcement authority**. Strengthening enforcement will protect public health and create a level playing field for law-abiding businesses. The bill rightly recognizes that existing penalties alone are not deterring all bad actors. By allowing regulators to **seize other tobacco products and ESDs sold in violation of the law**, SB842 will empower the state to shut down illegal operators who disregard licensing, tax, and age-restriction laws. Such authority is appropriate and needed – bad actors continue to exploit loopholes and skirt regulations at the expense of our youth and consumers.

### Requiring Licensing for All ESD Retailers

I recommend amending SB842 to include a **requirement that all retailers who sell electronic smoking devices obtain a specific ESD retailer license** (in addition to any existing tobacco retail licenses). Currently, Maryland law allows cigarette and OTP licensees to sell ESD products without an additional license. By amending SB842 to explicitly require an ESD retailer license for *any* business that sells vaping products, Maryland can better track and regulate the retail marketplace. This measure will help prevent rogue shops from operating under the radar, and it will facilitate more regular inspections to verify ID checks, tax compliance, and product safety. It aligns with the bill's broader goal of tightening oversight of the tobacco and vaping product supply chain. I urge the Committee to add an amendment creating or reinforcing a specific **"Electronic Smoking Device Retailer License" requirement for all retailers**, which will improve transparency and accountability in this sector.

### Enforcing Sales Tax Compliance with Mandatory Penalties

Another important amendment to strengthen SB842 would be to establish **mandatory penalties for businesses that fail to collect or remit required sales taxes on tobacco/ESD products**. With Maryland's recent tax increases on vaping products (e.g. high excise taxes on certain ESD liquids ()), there is a strong incentive for unscrupulous sellers to evade these taxes to gain a price

advantage. Over the interim, our members visited 50+ retailers and only found a handful of them were collecting the proper sales tax, potentially costing the state millions of dollars in revenue. Obviously, the State Comptroller's Office has the authority to audit and penalize businesses that are out of compliance, but audits take time, and there are thousands of retailers in the state. We must ensure that honest businesses who play by the rules are not undercut by tax evaders. We would urge the committee to add language to SB842 creating **clear, mandatory penalties for sales tax noncompliance** in the tobacco and vaping product market. Even a general penalty framework (for example, fines escalating for repeated violations, and potential license suspension for willful tax evasion) would send a powerful message. Right now, some retailers may perceive lax enforcement of the sales and use tax on ESD products. That cannot continue – **failure to enforce tax collection not only deprives the state of revenue, but also allows bad actors to flourish and creates a black market.** We have seen in other contexts that when taxes are high without robust enforcement, illegal markets grow, endangering public safety and **causing the state to lose tax revenue.** By instituting defined penalties for not charging or reporting the required taxes on vape product sales, Maryland will bolster compliance. Such penalties should be firm but flexible – for instance, a schedule of fines (rather than criminal charges) could be appropriate for most violations, with stricter consequences for repeat offenders. The key is that there be *mandatory enforcement action* when a retailer is caught evading sales tax, rather than optional or inconsistent responses.

## **Restricting Larger-Volume Vape Products to Licensed Vape Shops**

Finally, I ask the Committee to consider an amendment to **limit the sale of larger-volume vaping products (over 5 milliliters of e-liquid)** to only those retailers holding a “**Vape Shop Vendor**” license. **This would enhance the state's ability to enforce regulations** on these products. Maryland law already recognizes that e-liquids above 5ml are a distinct category. Currently, ESD products under 5mL are taxed at a rate of 60% of the wholesale price, whereas all other ESD products are taxed at a sales tax rate of 20%. In practice, e-liquids sold in containers larger than 5ml are typically used with open-system vaporizers and **found in specialized vape shops**, rather than the small cartridge-based devices commonly sold at convenience stores. By **allowing only licensed vape shop vendors to sell >5ml vape products**, we can channel these products into a more controlled retail environment. Vape shop vendor licensees are generally specialty retailers who are knowledgeable about the products and who operate adult-only establishments. These items should not be “items of convenience.” Restricting the sale of larger vape products to vape shops would be a sensible control. It also concentrates state oversight. If only vape shops products over 5mL, it becomes easier to verify that appropriate excise tax is being applied and that no untaxed products are filtering into corner stores. The end result would be a tighter regulatory loop around the products that pose the greatest risk of abuse. Importantly, this measure does *not* ban large vaping products for adult consumers; it simply ensures they are sold in a responsible, restricted manner. Given the bill's focus on reinforcing existing regulations, this amendment would enhance Maryland's ability to **enforce its tax laws (on >5ml liquids) and age-21 laws** by narrowing where those products can be sold. I encourage the Committee to adopt an amendment specifying that any e-liquid product over 5ml in volume may only be sold by a holder of a Vape Shop Vendor license.

## **Conclusion**

Thank you for your consideration and for your leadership in addressing the ongoing challenges posed by tobacco and vaping products. By enacting SB842 with these improvements, Maryland can better safeguard public health, support responsible businesses, and hold bad actors accountable.

### **Contact**

Candice Gott

[candicedeane@hotmail.com](mailto:candicedeane@hotmail.com)

Tyler Bennett

[tbennett@compassadvocacy.com](mailto:tbennett@compassadvocacy.com)