



JOHN A. OLSZEWSKI, JR.
County Executive

CHARLES R. CONNER III, ESQ.
Chief Legislative Officer

KIMBERLY S. ROUTSON
Deputy Legislative Officer

JOEL N. BELLER
Assistant Legislative Officer

BILL NO.: SB 410

TITLE: Electronic Smoking Devices – Flavor Prohibition

SPONSOR: Senator Kramer

COMMITTEE: Finance

POSITION: **SUPPORT**

DATE: February 13, 2020

Baltimore County **SUPPORTS** Senate Bill 410 – Electronic Smoking Devices – Flavor Prohibition. This proposed legislation would prohibit the sale of an electronic smoking device (ESD) that contains a natural or artificial flavor other than tobacco. Violators would be charged with a misdemeanor and be subject to a \$1,000 fine, up to 30 days of imprisonment, or both.

Tobacco product among young people has skyrocketed in recent years, and ESDs are the most commonly used tobacco products among high school students. One of the reasons that ESDs have become so popular is the flavors made available – options like mint, berry, and crème. In addition to making the product taste better, the flavors obscure how dangerous the product is – more than 60% of teens believe that ESDs are not as dangerous as other tobacco products. In addition to addiction, nicotine causes permanent damage to the developing brain, and chemicals in ESDs can have a long-term impact on the lungs.

One of Baltimore County’s top policy objectives is to reduce the use of ESDs among young people. Removing the temptation of addictive flavors will limit the power of the tobacco market to attract young customers, and having a penalty in place for violations of the ban will reduce the likelihood of illegal sales.

Accordingly, Baltimore County requests a **FAVORABLE** report on SB 410. For more information, please contact Chuck Conner, Chief Legislative Officer, at 443-900-6582.