



THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

BILL: Senate Bill 410 – Electronic Smoking Devices – Flavor Prohibition

SPONSOR: Senators Kramer, Rosapepe, and West

HEARING DATE: February 13, 2020

COMMITTEE: Finance

CONTACT: Intergovernmental Affairs Office, 301-780-8411

POSITION: SUPPORT

The Office of the Prince George's County Executive **SUPPORTS Senate Bill 410 – Electronic Smoking Devices – Flavor Prohibition**, which bans flavored vape products.

There has been significant reductions in youth smoking with the help of legislation like Maryland's Clean Indoor Air Act of 2007 and the Federal Family Smoking Prevention and Tobacco Control Act of 2009. However, today we have a new problem. Maryland's young people are using flavored vape and tobacco products at alarming rates. In Prince George's County, one in three high school students and one in four middle school students have tried an electronic vapor product.¹ Ninety percent of youth who have tried vaping used a product with flavoring other than tobacco.²

The brain is not fully developed until age 25.³ Nicotine has a devastating effect on the adolescent brain and may result in slowed brain function, increased addiction, and emotional and psychiatric difficulties.⁴ There is substantial evidence that youth vaping increases the risk of using traditional cigarettes.⁵

¹ Information pulled from the October 2019 Prince George's County Health Department Vaping factsheet. Data source is the 2016 Maryland Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS)

² Information pulled from the October 2019 Prince George's County Health Department Vaping factsheet. Data source is the 2016 Maryland Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS)

³ <https://www.yalemedicine.org/stories/vaping-nicotine-addiction/>

⁴ Goriounova NA, Mansvellder HD. Nicotine exposure during adolescence alters the rules for prefrontal cortical synaptic plasticity during adulthood. *Front Synaptic Neurosci.* 2012;4:3. Published 2012 Aug 2. doi:10.3389/fnsyn.2012.00003

⁵ American Lung Association, <https://www.lung.org/stop-smoking/smoking-facts/e-cigarettes-and-lung-health.html>

The impact of nicotine is well-documented, but vaping products also include chemicals like flavorings, propellants, solvents, and oils.⁶ The long-term health impact of inhaling these chemicals is unknown. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is currently investigating over 1,600 cases of people nationwide – as young as 13 years old – with severe vaping-related lung illnesses and injuries, dozens of patients have died.⁷ Banning flavored vaping products will deter young people from trying vaping.

For the reasons stated above, the Office of the Prince George’s County Executive **SUPPORTS Senate Bill 410** and asks for a **FAVORABLE** report.

⁶ Pulled directly from the October 2019 Prince George’s County Health Department Vaping factsheet. Information source is the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

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