

JACK BAILEY
Legislative District 29
Calvert and St. Mary's Counties

Education, Health, and
Environmental Affairs Committee



THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
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February 18, 2020

Senate Bill 508 – St. Mary's County - Possession of Tobacco Product or Electronic Smoking Device by an Individual Under the Age of 21 Years - Prohibition

Dear Chairman Smith and Members of the Committee,

As the Senator representing St. Mary's County, I am writing to introduce Senate Bill 508 – St. Mary's County - Possession of Tobacco Product or Electronic Smoking Device by an Individual Under the Age of 21 Years – Prohibition. This bill would prohibit an individual younger than age 21 from possessing a tobacco product or electronic smoking device in St. Mary's County, with an exception for active duty military members over the age of 18.

Last session, the General Assembly passed legislation raising the minimum age to purchase tobacco products from 18 to 21. At the same time, this legislation repealed the prohibition on a minor possessing tobacco products or electronic smoking devices. Following passage of this law last session, the St. Mary's County Public School System became concerned about students possessing tobacco products in our schools. Following discussions with our Sheriff's Office and State's Attorney, the school administration requested introduction of this local legislation to assist them with keeping tobacco out of our schools. I strongly support their efforts.

Senate Bill 508 does not impose any criminal penalties for possession of a tobacco product or electronic smoking device by an individual under the age of 21 in St. Mary's County; a violation of this law would be a civil offense.

I respectfully request a favorable report on Senate Bill 508. Thank you for your consideration of this important local bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Bailey", written over a horizontal line.

Senator Jack Bailey
District 29
Calvert and St. Mary's Counties