



Committee: House Economic Matters Committee

Bill Number: House Bill 134

Bill Title: “Business Regulation - Flavored Tobacco Products - Prohibition”

Hearing Date: February 10, 2021

Position: Support

The Maryland Association of School Health Nurses (MASHN) supports HB 134 “Business Regulation - Flavored Tobacco Products – Prohibition.”

Tobacco use is the leading cause of preventable disease and death in the United States; nearly all tobacco product use begins during youth and young adulthood. The 2020 National Youth Tobacco Survey results show disturbing rates of e-cigarette use among both middle and high school students in 2020:

- 23.6% of high school and 6.7% of middle school students reported currently using any tobacco product.

While cigarette smoking is at an all-time low among high school students, increases in e-cigarette use have reversed the progress made in the decline of overall youth tobacco use (Wang et al., 2020).

- 3.6 million youth currently use e-cigarettes.
- More than 8 out of 10 youth e-cigarette users report use of flavored products.

Electronic cigarettes (e-cigarettes), also called vapes, e-hookas, vape pens, tank systems, mods, and electronic nicotine delivery systems (ENDS), are electronic devices that produce an aerosol by heating a liquid typically containing nicotine, flavorings, and other additives; users inhale this aerosol into their lungs. As of September 24, 2019, 46 state health departments and one territorial health department had reported 805 patients with cases of lung injury associated with use of e-cigarette, or vaping, products to CDC (Perrine et al., 2019).

E-cigarette companies have targeted youth in their marketing strategies and developed appealing flavors (*mint or menthol, gummy bear, cotton candy, “Pop Tartz” and strawberry shortcake*) with high nicotine content to ensure dependence on their products (Blume & Lines, 2020).

MASHN appreciates the Committee giving this issue the time and consideration it deserves. We ask for a favorable report on the bill.

If any additional information is needed, please contact Kristy Gorman of MASHN at kristygorman@gmail.com.

Blume LF, Lines S. The Role of the School Nurse in Creating a Vape-Free School. *NASN School Nurse*. 2020;35(3):166-172. doi:10.1177/1942602X20913261

Perrine CG, Pickens CM, Boehmer TK, et al. Characteristics of a Multistate Outbreak of Lung Injury Associated with E-cigarette Use, or Vaping — United States, 2019. *MMWR Morb Mortal Wkly Rep* 2019;68:860–864. DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.15585/mmwr.mm6839e1>external icon.

Wang TW, Neff LJ, Park-Lee E, Ren C, Cullen KA, King BA. E-cigarette Use Among Middle and High School Students — United States, 2020. *MMWR Morb Mortal Wkly Rep* 2020;69:1310–1312. DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.15585/mmwr.mm6937e1>external icon.