



**HB 1341 - Prince George's County – Other Tobacco Products and Electronic Smoking Devices –  
Requirements and Limitations  
OPPOSED**

March 2, 2022

Honorable C.T. Wilson  
Chair  
Economic Matters  
House Office Building, Room 231  
Annapolis, MD 21224

Chair Wilson, Vice-Chair Crosby, and Committee Members,

The Maryland Vapor Alliance represents approximately 200 brick-and-mortar vapor shops across Maryland. We are small businesses and defined in statute as vape shop vendors meaning 70% or more of our retail sales are derived from vapor products and accessories such as hardware and liquids. For almost all of our shops, this number is closer to 90% - 100%.

We have helped thousands of Maryland tobacco users transition to electronic nicotine delivery systems (ENDS) through the use of “open systems” that allow the user to control the amount of nicotine intake. This allows the adult user to decrease their nicotine intake over time.

The last four years, the Maryland Vapor Alliance has opposed numerous flavor ban bills in the Maryland General Assembly that, if passed, would eliminate access for consumers that have used the products our members sell to quit combustible cigarettes. This legislation would give the full authority to Prince George's County to implement density zone laws that would ban vape shop vendor from being within a 1,500-foot geographic zone surrounding schools. There are fewer than 200 vape shop vendors in Maryland. While not legally required to age-gate locations, many proactively prohibit individuals under 21 from entering the premise. Furthermore, this legislation fails to act against tobacco retailers, of which there are approximately 8,000 retailers in Maryland at locations that cannot and are not age gated. Vape shop vendors are small business owners that often enter long-term commercial leases that cannot be broken based on changes to state laws. If passed, qualifying vape shop vendors will be liable for breaking their leases which is often the most expensive fixed cost of the business.

We remain committed to working with the legislature on crafting legislation to strengthen the regulations around vaping products. We thank you for your consideration of our testimony.

Sincerely,

Matt Milby  
Vice-President, Maryland Vapor Alliance