

MARYLAND JUDICIAL CONFERENCE
GOVERNMENT RELATIONS AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Hon. Joseph M. Getty
Chief Judge

187 Harry S. Truman Parkway
Annapolis, MD 21401

MEMORANDUM

TO: House Economic Matters Committee
FROM: Legislative Committee
Suzanne D. Pelz, Esq.
410-260-1523
RE: House Bill 1341
Prince George's County – Other Tobacco Products and Electronic
Smoking Devices – Requirements and Limitations
DATE: February 23, 2022
(3/2)
POSITION: Oppose, as drafted

The Judiciary opposes House Bill 1341, as drafted. House Bill 1341 amends the Business Regulation Article by adding provisions authorizing Prince George's County to enact and enforce local laws concerning certain tobacco products and smoking devices.

This bill will directly impact the License Department in the Clerk's Office in the Circuit Court for Prince George's County. Specifically, the Judiciary is concerned with the provisions starting at page 2, line 20 and again at page 5, line 15. These provisions require the Clerk of Court to deny a license to an applicant in certain circumstances. The Clerk's Office does not have the capabilities or a process to know whether such conditions exist. It would be better to provide that the Clerk could issue a trader's license for the sale of tobacco products if an applicant were to present certification from the Prince George's County Department of Permitting, Inspection and Enforcement indicating compliance with the restrictive provisions. As currently drafted, the Clerk's Office in Prince George's County could not comply with these provisions.

cc. Prince George's County Delegation
Judicial Council
Legislative Committee
Kelley O'Connor