



# Informational Memorandum for HB 1414

## Delegate Fair

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House Economic Matters Committee

March 5, 2024

The American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network is the nonprofit nonpartisan advocacy affiliate of the American Cancer Society. ACS CAN empowers cancer patients, survivors, their families and other experts on the disease, amplifying their voices and public policy matters that are relevant to the cancer community at all levels of government. We support evidence-based public policies to reduce the cancer burden for everyone. On behalf of our constituents, many of whom have been personally affected by cancer, we have concerns regarding HB 1414.

ACS CAN advocates for regulating all tobacco products, including e-cigarettes, in a consistent manner and regularly and significantly increasing taxes all tobacco products at a rate parallel to the tax on cigarettes.

ACS CAN supports prohibiting all forms of smoking including the use of e-cigarettes in all workplaces and public places. However, as drafted, HB 1414 fails to include the smoking of all heated products and all plant products including all forms of cannabis.

In addition, HB 1414 fails to significantly raise the taxes on all tobacco products including cigarettes to a parallel rate. Increasing tobacco excise taxes is one of the best ways to reduce overall tobacco use. It is important that when considering an excise tax increase on any tobacco product, including e-cigarettes, that the tax should be increased on all tobacco products at an equivalent rate to encourage people to quit rather than switch to a cheaper product, and prevent youth from starting to use any tobacco product. Taxing certain products at lower rates than cigarettes makes them an appealing alternative for price-sensitive consumers including youth.

For these reasons, ACS CAN thanks the Chair and committee for the opportunity to testify and respectfully requests the committee take our concerns under consideration for HB 1414.