

MARLON AMPREY
Legislative District 40
Baltimore City

DEPUTY MAJORITY WHIP

Economic Matters Committee



The Maryland House of Delegates
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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

February 25, 2025

Testimony of Delegate Marlon Amprey in support of HB 1241 Seizure of Electronic Smoking Devices

Dear Members of the Economic Matters Committee,

Though our Committee has made important strides on tobacco control, the problem of youth access to tobacco products, particularly electronic smoking devices, remains significant. Big Tobacco is persistent in targeting children, and so we too must remain persistent in protecting these children from their products.

HB 1241, with sponsor amendments that clarify intent, seeks to close a loophole in our tobacco enforcement laws, and by doing so, strengthen the Alcohol, Tobacco, and Cannabis Commission's ("ATCC") enforcement powers for electronic smoking devices.

The ATCC is currently able to seize tobacco products like cigarettes in carrying out its enforcement authority. Notably absent from any seizure authority, however, is authorizing language that allows it to seize electronic smoking devices for any violations. HB1241 would grant the ATCC this seizure power.

A similar loophole exists in the record keeping requirements for electronic smoking devices. Though other tobacco products are subject to record keeping requirements that include key information like who the products were purchased from, what retailers they may be sold to, and supporting information like quantities and dates of sale, electronic smoking devices are not subject to these same record keeping requirements. HB1241 would bring electronic smoking devices under the same record keeping requirements that other tobacco products are subject to.

These steps are critical for ensuring the same strategies and enforcement that protect Maryland's youth from products like cigarettes are also available for electronic smoking devices, which as you know, are a particularly prominent market with young smokers.

The need for this legislation is broadly recognized. In 2024, polling showed eighty-one percent of Maryland voters supported action against Big Tobacco to safeguard our children. The facts make clear why concern is so widespread. Over 48,000 Maryland high school students self-report that they use tobacco products, a number that likely falls short of the true total.

The impacts of tobacco use are significant. Maryland incurs annual healthcare costs of approximately \$3.14 billion directly related to smoking, and 27.5% of cancer-related deaths in Maryland can be traced to tobacco use.

For these reasons, I urge you to vote in favor of HB 1241, with sponsor amendments, and continue your strong track record of protecting our children from the dangers of tobacco.

For these reasons, I urge a favorable report on House Bill 1241.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Marlon Amprey".

Delegate Marlon Amprey
40th Legislative District of Maryland