

Concerns About SB0918:

The bill favors big tobacco and is being lobbied across the United States by Big Tobacco under the guise of consumer protection.

Power of the Attorney General: The bill would give the Attorney General the sole authority to determine which vapor products can be sold in Maryland.

Lack of Clarity: The legislation lacks a clear process or criteria for how the Attorney General will make decisions, raising issues of fairness and consistency. With the cost associated in fees for registering products, it will only leave big tobacco products on the market.

Risk of Product Bans: There is a serious risk that the bill will ban open system vapor products and low-nicotine devices leaving customers who use 3mg nicotine with no options other than high 50mg nicotine options.

Economic Impact: Implementing this legislation could lead to the closure of small vape shops, leaving convenience stores as the primary retailers, which data shows are the primary sellers to teens. Estimates suggest potential economic losses for the state could exceed \$100 million, a conservative figure based on past legislation that affected flavors and would now encompass even more products. This will cause a huge black market as people use online services and other states to get products.