

2/25/2025

SB0918

Good afternoon, Chair/vice chair members of the committee,

Hello. My name is Matthew Milby and I'm a small business owner in Maryland and also a disabled Veteran and I stand in opposition to this bill.

This Bill SB0918 is nothing but another way to ban vaping across the state unless you have the money and resources to comply which only leaves Big Tobacco's products, what a gift!

A lot of the businesses we deal with are small businesses as well and they will not be able to comply fiscally or with the onerous regulations that this bill will establish.

Right now in Maryland we face a huge budget deficit and this bill is so subjective in nature and gives the AG, for the most part, sole discretion on compliance. With no frame work or mechanisms in place for compliance this is going to cost the state even more money to set all these sytems up and implement especially since we as a state cannot handle current compliance. We are not collecting the correct tax and are not tracking it or ensuring proper licensing.(Ex. We found flower shops selling ENDS) We found EASILY over 50 businesses not paying the proper tax or any tax at all!!)

Unless there are provisions in this bill to police interstate travel and the internet this will ensure that a huge black market comes to MD because this bill will systematically put small businesses out of business.

I would much rather see better licensing and better enforcement as a better way to go to ensure the state gets the proper tax and these products remain available to adults without having to resort to high nicotine Big Tobacco products or go back to cigarettes.