

HOUSE No. 3593

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Bradley H. Jones, Jr.

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the passage of the accompanying bill:

An Act prohibiting the possession of tobacco by minors.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
Bradley H. Jones, Jr.	20th Middlesex
George N. Peterson, Jr.	9th Worcester
Viriato Manuel deMacedo	1st Plymouth
Elizabeth Poirier	14th Bristol
Paul K. Frost	7th Worcester
Susan Williams Gifford	2nd Plymouth
Bradford R. Hill	4th Essex
Richard J. Ross	9th Norfolk
Todd M. Smola	1st Hampden
Robert S. Hargraves	1st Middlesex

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand and Nine

AN ACT PROHIBITING THE POSSESSION OF TOBACCO BY MINORS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

- 1 SECTION 1. Chapter 270 of the General Laws, as most recently amended by chapter 215 of the
2 acts of 2008, is hereby further amended by inserting after section five, the following section:—
3 Section 5A. As used in this section and section 6 the following words shall, unless the context
4 clearly requires otherwise, have the following meanings:
5 “Tobacco Products”, cigarettes, bidis, cigars, chewing tobacco, pipe tobacco, snuff, or tobacco in
6 any of its forms.
7 “Retailer”, any establishment that sells tobacco products to individuals for personal
8 consumption.
9 “Person”, individual, employer, employee, retail store manager or owner, or the owner or
10 operator of any establishment engaged in the sale of tobacco products.
11 “Proof of age”, a motor vehicle license issued pursuant to section eight of chapter 90, a liquor
12 purchase identification card issued pursuant to section 34 B of chapter 138, a valid passport
13 issued by the United States government, or by the government, recognized by the United States
14 government, of a foreign country, or a valid United States issued military identification card.
15 “Local Permit”, any permit that a retailer is required to obtain by local ordinance, by-law or
16 board of health regulation in order to sell or distribute tobacco products.
17 “Smoking”, inhaling, exhaling, burning or carrying any lighted cigar, cigarette, or other tobacco
18 product in any form.
- 19 SECTION 2. Said chapter 270 is hereby further amended by striking out section 6, as so
20 appearing, and inserting in place thereof the following section:—
21 Section 6. (a) No person under 18 years of age shall smoke, possess, or use any tobacco products
22 in the commonwealth.
23 (b) No person shall sell tobacco products or permit tobacco products to be sold to any person
24 under 18 years of age nor shall any person give a person under 18 years of age a tobacco product.
25 (c) Every retailer shall verify by means of proof of age that no person purchasing tobacco

26 products is under 18 years of age. No person under 18 years of age shall misrepresent his or her
27 age by presenting false proof of age to purchase tobacco products. No such verification is
28 required for any person over 26 years of age.

29 (d) Nothing in this section shall prohibit persons under 18 years of age from participating in
30 compliance checks conducted in order to enforce and monitor compliance with this section or
31 any other law governing the sale of tobacco products to minors or persons under 18 years of age.

32 (e) Any retailer who violates any provision of this section shall be fined \$100 for the first
33 offense, \$200 for the second offense, and \$300 for the third or subsequent offense. Any retailer
34 who violates this act four or more times within a three year period, calculated from the date of
35 the first offense, shall be subject to a fine of \$300 for each offense and shall have his local permit
36 suspended for seven consecutive calendar days. The board of health shall provide notice of the
37 intent to suspend a tobacco permit, which notice shall contain the reasons for the permit
38 suspension and establish a date and time for a hearing. The date of the hearing shall be no earlier
39 than seven days after the date of said notice. The permittee shall have an opportunity to be heard
40 at such hearing and shall be notified of the Board's decision and reasons in writing.

41 (f) The court shall require any person who is under 18 years of age who violates any provision of
42 this act to perform 20 hours of community service and enroll in a tobacco education program;
43 provided, however, that this section shall not apply to a person who is under 18 years of age who
44 possesses, transports, or carries on his person tobacco products in the course of his employment.

45 The court shall treat a violation of this section as a civil infraction. A person complained of for
46 such civil infraction shall be adjudicated responsible upon such finding by the court and shall
47 neither be sentenced to a term of incarceration nor be entitled to appointed counsel pursuant to
48 chapter 211D. An adjudication of responsibility under this section shall not be used in the
49 calculation of second and subsequent offenses under any chapter, nor as the basis for the
50 revocation of parole or of a probation surrender.

51 SECTION 3. Said chapter 270 is hereby further amended by inserting after section 7, the
52 following section:—

53 Section 7A. (a) Police officers, school officials and their agents shall have the authority to
54 confiscate any tobacco products from any person under 18 years of age and may return the
55 confiscated tobacco products to said person's parent or legal guardian upon written request
56 within 30 days. If the tobacco product is not claimed within 30 days, the police officers, school
57 officials and their agents shall destroy the tobacco product.

58 (b) In addition to the penalties provided in section six of chapter 270 upon petition of a board of
59 health to the commissioner of revenue that a retailer has been cited in violation of said section
60 six, four or more times within a three year period, calculated from the date of the first offense,
61 the commissioner of revenue shall, after providing the retailer with notice and opportunity to be
62 heard, suspend for 30 days the retailer's license, issued in accordance with section 67 of chapter
63 62C. The commissioner shall provide notice of the intent to suspend said license, which notice
64 shall contain the reasons for the suspension and establish a date and time for a hearing. The date

65 of the hearing shall be no earlier than seven days after the date of said notice. The licensee shall
66 have an opportunity to be heard at such hearing and shall be notified of the commissioner's
67 decision and reasons in writing. Any person aggrieved by the commissioner's suspension of said
68 license may within 60 days of the date of notice of such suspension appeal to the appellate tax
69 board, whose decision shall be final.

70 (c) Police officers, school officials and their agents shall have the authority to confiscate any
71 tobacco products from any person who is under 18 years of age; the commonwealth of
72 Massachusetts or its agents, including but not limited to the department of public health, the
73 attorney general, and the state police; any city or town or its agent, any board of health or its
74 agent, and any city or town police department, any school official or its agent may enforce all
75 other provisions of this act. If the enforcing authority is a board of health or its authorized agent,
76 any violation of this section may be disposed of by the non-criminal method of disposition
77 procedures contained in section 21D of chapter 40 without an enabling ordinance or bylaw. If the
78 enforcing authority is any city or town or its agent, any board of health or its agent, or any city or
79 town police department, fines that are assessed pursuant to section 6 of chapter 270 may be
80 payable to the city or town in which the violation of this section occurs. Any city or town may,
81 by ordinance or bylaw, establish a fund for the disposition of any revenues received from fines
82 levied in accordance with the provisions of section 6 of chapter 270, in which case, the municipal
83 health department or board of health shall expend said funds for the purpose of enforcing this act
84 or any local law that regulates the sale of tobacco products.

85 SECTION 4. Nothing in any of the sections of this act shall be construed to preempt any existing
86 law, ordinance, by-law or regulation which requires a permit or license for the sale of tobacco
87 products, or which regulates the sale, use, or distribution of tobacco products. Nothing in any of
88 the sections of this act shall prohibit any city, town, or board of health from enacting or
89 enforcing any law, ordinance, by-law or regulation which requires a permit for the sale of
90 tobacco products or which regulates the sale, use, or distribution of tobacco products.

91 SECTION 5. If the age restriction of this act is preempted under Section 360(k)(a) of Title XXI
92 of the United States code, the governor shall, within 30 days of the effective date of this act,
93 apply to the commissioner of the federal food and drug administration for a waiver pursuant to
94 Section 360(k)(b) of Title XXI of the United States code.

95 SECTION 6. If any paragraph or provision of this regulation is found to be illegal or against
96 public policy or unconstitutional, it shall not affect the legality of any remaining paragraphs or
97 provisions being in force.