
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 57 Session of 2013

INTRODUCED BY V. BROWN, CALTAGIRONE, COHEN, ROEBUCK, EVERETT, KORTZ, TALLMAN, O'BRIEN, FABRIZIO, D. COSTA, SWANGER, ROCK, THOMAS, FRANKEL, MCCARTER, MURT, BISHOP, DEAN AND FREEMAN, FEBRUARY 4, 2013

AS REPORTED FROM COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, AS AMENDED, JUNE 3, 2013

A RESOLUTION

1 Supporting youth tobacco prevention initiatives.

2 WHEREAS, According to the United States Centers for Disease
3 Control and Prevention, the following statistics were reported
4 for 2009: 80% of adult smokers began smoking before 18 years of
5 age; 19.5% of high school students and 5.2% of middle school
6 students smoked one or more cigarettes in the previous month;
7 and 8.9% of high school students and 2.6% of middle school
8 students were current smokeless tobacco users; and

9 WHEREAS, Additional data from the Centers for Disease Control
10 and Prevention suggest that minors are now obtaining tobacco
11 products from a number of sources other than retail outlets,
12 such as through online purchases; and

13 WHEREAS, Although a steady decline in youth tobacco usage has
14 been evident, statistics can be further improved upon through
15 education, deterrent legislative measures and limiting access to
16 tobacco products; and

1 WHEREAS, Unfortunately, minors are not currently prohibited
2 from purchasing and consuming CERTAIN tobacco-derived products, <--
3 SUCH AS ELECTRONIC SMOKING DEVICES, in a number of states; and

4 WHEREAS, The prevalence of illegal purchases of tobacco and
5 tobacco-derived products by minors necessitates the prohibition
6 of underage possession of all tobacco products; and

7 WHEREAS, It is vital that legislators and educators identify
8 creative and effective ways to further influence and educate
9 minors to positively change the behavior and wellness of
10 America's youth; and

11 ~~WHEREAS, Additionally, it is crucial to properly define <--
12 tobacco derived products and electronic cigarettes in State
13 statutes and prohibit the purchase and possession by minors;
14 therefore be it~~

15 WHEREAS, IT IS CRUCIAL TO INCLUDE ELECTRONIC SMOKING DEVICES <--
16 IN THE DEFINITION OF TOBACCO-DERIVED PRODUCTS IN STATE STATUTES
17 AND PROHIBIT THE PURCHASE AND POSSESSION BY MINORS; THEREFORE BE
18 IT

19 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives support and
20 encourage evidence-based youth tobacco prevention education and
21 recognize its importance as a meaningful part of health
22 education regarding the dangers of smoking and nicotine
23 addiction; and be it further

24 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives ~~pass laws that <--
25 address not only the illegal sale of tobacco to minors, but also
26 the purchase and possession of tobacco products by minors,
27 including both traditional tobacco products as well as tobacco-
28 derived products.~~ FURTHER ADDRESS THE ILLEGAL PURCHASE AND SALE <--
29 OF TOBACCO AND TOBACCO-DERIVED PRODUCTS, SUCH AS ELECTRONIC
30 SMOKING DEVICES, TO MINORS.