



SPONSOR: Sen. Townsend & Sen. Delcollo & Rep. Minor-Brown & Rep. Griffith & Rep. Longhurst  
Sens. Cloutier, Hansen, Lockman, Paradee, Poore, Sokola; Reprs. Baumbach, Bentz, Bolden, Brady, Chukwuocha, Dorsey Walker, Heffernan, Jaques, K. Johnson, Q. Johnson, Matthews, Schwartzkopf, Seigfried

DELAWARE STATE SENATE  
150th GENERAL ASSEMBLY

SENATE BILL NO. 25

AN ACT TO AMEND TITLE 11, TITLE 16, AND TITLE 30 OF THE DELAWARE CODE RELATING TO DELIVERY AND SALES OF TOBACCO PRODUCTS.

1 WHEREAS, tobacco remains this nation's number 1 preventable cause of premature death and disease, killing  
2 more than 480,000 Americans, including 1,400 Delawareans annually; and

3 WHEREAS, the Institute of Medicine ("IOM"), one of the most prestigious scientific authorities in the United  
4 States, concluded in a March 2015 report, "Public Health Implications of Raising the Minimum Age of Legal Access to  
5 Tobacco Products" ("IOM report"), that raising the tobacco sale age to 21 will have a substantial positive impact on public  
6 health and save lives through reductions in youth tobacco use initiation; and

7 WHEREAS, the IOM report is based on a thorough literature review and expert panel consensus; and

8 WHEREAS, the IOM report finds that raising the tobacco sale age will do all of the following: significantly reduce  
9 the number of adolescents and young adults who start smoking; reduce smoking-caused death; and immediately improve  
10 the health of adolescents, young adults, and young mothers who would be deterred from smoking; and

11 WHEREAS, the IOM report further predicts that raising the minimum age for the sale of tobacco products to 21  
12 will, over time, do all of the following: reduce the smoking rate by about 12%; reduce smoking-related deaths by 10%,  
13 resulting in 223,000 fewer premature deaths, 50,000 fewer deaths from lung cancer, and 4.2 million fewer years of life lost  
14 nationwide; and reduce smoking-related health outcomes like low birth weight, pre-term births, and SIDS deaths; and

15 WHEREAS, 95% of adults who smoke started before age 21; and

16 WHEREAS, each day, more than 2,500 Americans try their first cigarette and another 580 become new regular,  
17 daily smokers; and

18 WHEREAS, tobacco use is known to cause cancer, heart disease, and respiratory diseases, among other serious  
19 health problems; and

20 WHEREAS, exposure to nicotine can have lasting effects on adolescent brain development; and

21 WHEREAS, the use of electronic smoking devices, which contain unregulated amounts of nicotine, among minors  
22 has recently tripled; and

23 WHEREAS, the use of cigars by youth recently surpassed the use of cigarettes; and

24 WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that tobacco use costs approximately \$170  
25 billion, including \$532 million for health care costs in Delaware each year, with \$95.6 million in costs to Delaware's  
26 Medicaid program.

27 NOW, THEREFORE:

28 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF DELAWARE:

29 Section 1. Amend § 1115, Title 11 of the Delaware Code by making deletions as shown by strike through and  
30 insertions as shown by underline as follows:

31 § 1115. Definitions.

32 (4) "Proof of age" means a driver's license or other government-issued identification with a photograph of the  
33 individual affixed thereon that indicates that the individual is ~~18~~ 21 years old or older.

34 Section 2. Amend § 1116, Title 11 of the Delaware Code by making deletions as shown by strike through and  
35 insertions as shown by underline as follows:

36 § 1116. Sale or distribution of tobacco products or tobacco substitutes to ~~minors~~ individuals under the age of 21  
37 years.

38 (a) It shall be unlawful for any person to sell or distribute any tobacco product or tobacco substitute to ~~another~~  
39 ~~person~~ an individual who has not attained the age of ~~18~~ 21 years or to purchase any tobacco product or tobacco substitute  
40 on behalf of ~~another such person~~, ~~except that this section shall not apply to the parent or guardian of another such person.~~  
41 an individual under 21 years of age.

42 (c) A person engaged in the sale or distribution of tobacco products or tobacco substitutes shall demand proof of  
43 age from a prospective purchaser or recipient of such products who is under ~~27~~ 30 years of age.

44 Section 3. Amend § 1117, Title 11 of the Delaware Code by making deletions as shown by strike through and  
45 insertions as shown by underline as follows:

46 § 1117. Notice.

47 A person engaged in the sale or distribution of tobacco products or tobacco substitutes shall post conspicuously at  
48 each point of purchase and each tobacco vending machine a notice stating that selling tobacco products or tobacco  
49 substitutes to anyone under ~~18~~ 21 years of age is illegal, that the purchase of tobacco products or tobacco substitutes by  
50 anyone under ~~18~~ 21 years of age is illegal and that a violator is subject to fines. The notice shall also state that all persons

51 selling tobacco products or tobacco substitutes are required, under law, to check the proof of age of any purchaser of  
52 tobacco products or tobacco substitutes under the age of ~~27~~30 years. The notice shall include a toll-free telephone number  
53 to the Department of Safety and Homeland Security for persons to report unlawful sales of tobacco products or tobacco  
54 substitutes. The owners of an establishment who fail to post a notice in compliance with this section shall be subject to a  
55 fine of \$100.

56 Section 4. Amend § 1118, Title 11 of the Delaware Code by making deletions as shown by strike through and  
57 insertions as shown by underline as follows:

58 § 1118. Distribution of ~~samples to minors.~~ samples or coupons.

59 (a) It shall be unlawful for any person to distribute tobacco product or tobacco substitute samples or coupons for  
60 subsequent receipt of free or discounted tobacco products or tobacco substitutes to ~~another person~~ an individual who has  
61 not attained the age of ~~18~~21 years.

62 Section 5. Amend § 1119, Title 11 of the Delaware Code by making deletions as shown by strike through and  
63 insertions as shown by underline as follows:

64 § 1119. Distribution of ~~cigarettes~~ tobacco products or tobacco substitutes through vending machines.

65 (a) It shall be unlawful for any person to distribute or permit the distribution of tobacco products or tobacco  
66 substitutes through the operation of a vending machine in a public place, except as provided in subsection (b) of this  
67 section.

68 (b) Pursuant to subsection (a) of this section, a person may distribute or permit the distribution of tobacco products  
69 or tobacco substitutes through the operation of a vending machine in a taproom, tavern, tobacco shop or in premises in  
70 which ~~a person~~ an individual who has not attained the age of ~~18~~21 years is prohibited by law from entering. A tobacco  
71 vending machine must be operated a minimum of 25 feet from any entrance to the premises and must be directly visible to  
72 the owner or supervisor of the premises.

73 (c) It shall be unlawful for any person who owns, operates or manages a business establishment where tobacco  
74 products or tobacco substitutes are offered for sale over the counter at retail to maintain such products in any display  
75 accessible to customers that is not under the control of a cashier or other employee. This prohibition shall not apply to  
76 business establishments to which ~~persons~~ individuals under the age of ~~18~~21 are not admitted unless accompanied by an  
77 adult, tobacco vending machines as permitted under subsection (b) of this section, or tobacco stores. As used in this  
78 subsection, "under the control" means customers cannot readily access the tobacco products or tobacco substitutes without  
79 the assistance of a cashier or other employee. A display that holds tobacco products or tobacco substitutes behind locked  
80 doors shall be ~~constructed~~ construed as under the control of a cashier or other employee.

81 Section 6. Amend § 1121, Title 11 of the Delaware Code by making deletions as shown by strike through and  
82 insertions as shown by underline as follows:

83 § 1121. Penalties.

84 (a)(1) Notwithstanding any other provision of Delaware law, a person who violates § 1116, § 1118, ~~§ 1119~~ § 1119,  
85 or § 1120 of this title ~~shall be~~ regarding an individual who is under 18 years old is guilty of a violation and ~~shall be~~ is fined  
86 \$250 for the first ~~offense~~ offense, \$500 for the second ~~offense~~ offense, and \$1,000 for the third and all subsequent offenses.

87 (2) Notwithstanding any other provision of Delaware law, a person who violates § 1116, § 1118, § 1119, or §  
88 1120 of this title regarding an individual who is at least age 18 years old but less than 21 years old is subject to a civil  
89 penalty as follows:

90 a. For a first occurrence, fined \$250.

91 b. For a second occurrence, fined \$500.

92 c. For a third or subsequent occurrence, fined \$1,000.

93 (b) Additionally, and notwithstanding any other provision of Delaware law, in imposing a penalty for a second,  
94 ~~third~~ third, or other subsequent offense under this subpart, the court may order the Department of Finance to suspend the  
95 defendant's license for sale of tobacco products, issued ~~pursuant to~~ under § 5307 of Title 30, for a period not to exceed 6  
96 months. Upon the suspension of such license, the court shall advise the Department of Finance of the suspension in writing.  
97 The holder of the license shall surrender the license to the Department of Finance and no refund of fees ~~shall~~ will be paid.  
98 For purposes of this subpart, a subsequent offense is one that occurs within 12 months of a prior like offense.

99 Section 7. Amend § 1122, Title 11 of the Delaware Code by making deletions as shown by strike through and  
100 insertions as shown by underline as follows:

101 § 1122. Affirmative defense.

102 In any prosecution for an offense under this subpart, it shall be an affirmative defense that the purchaser or  
103 recipient of tobacco products or tobacco substitutes who had not reached the age of ~~48~~ 21 years presented to the accused  
104 proof of age which set forth information that would lead a reasonable person to believe that such individual was ~~48~~ 21 years  
105 of age or older.

106 Section 8. Amend § 1123, Title 11 of the Delaware Code by making deletions as shown by strike through and  
107 insertions as shown by underline as follows:

108 § 1123. Liability of employer.

109 (a) If a sale or distribution of any tobacco product or tobacco substitute or coupon is made in violation of § 1116, §  
110 1118, ~~§ 1119~~ or § 1119, or § 1120 of this title, the owner, proprietor, franchisee, store manager or other person in charge of

111 the establishment where the violation occurred shall be guilty of the violation and shall be subject to the fine only if the  
112 retail licensee has received written notice of the provisions of §§ 1116 through 1121 of this title by the Department of  
113 Safety and Homeland Security. For purposes of determining the liability of a person who owns or controls franchises or  
114 business operations in multiple locations, for a second or subsequent violation of this subpart, each individual franchise or  
115 business location shall be deemed a separate establishment.

116 (b) Notwithstanding any other provision of this subpart, in any prosecution for a violation of §§ 1116, ~~1118 and~~  
117 1118, or 1120 of this title, the owner, proprietor, franchisee, store manager or other person in charge of the establishment  
118 where the alleged violation occurred shall have an affirmative defense if such person or entity can establish that prior to the  
119 date of the violation the person or entity:

120 (1) ~~Had adopted~~ Adopted and enforced a written policy against selling tobacco products or tobacco  
121 substitutes to persons under ~~18~~ 21 years of age;

122 (2) ~~Had informed~~ Informed its employees of the applicable laws regarding the sale of tobacco products or  
123 tobacco substitutes to persons under ~~18~~ 21 years of age;

124 (3) Required employees to sign a form indicating that they have been informed of and understand the written  
125 policy required herein;

126 (4) Required employees to verify the age of tobacco product or tobacco substitute customers by means of  
127 photographic identification; and

128 (5) ~~Had established~~ Established and enforced disciplinary sanctions for noncompliance.

129 (c) The affirmative defense established in subsection (b) of this section may be used by an owner, proprietor,  
130 franchisee, store ~~manager~~ manager, or other person in charge of the establishment no more than ~~twice~~ 1 time at each  
131 location within any ~~12-month~~ 36 month period.

132 Section 9. Amend § 1124, Title 11 of the Delaware Code by making deletions as shown by strike through and  
133 insertions as shown by underline as follows:

134 § 1124. ~~Purchase or receipt of tobacco products or tobacco substitutes by minors.~~ [Reserved.]

135 (a) ~~It shall be unlawful for any person who has not attained the age of 18 years to purchase a tobacco product or~~  
136 ~~tobacco substitute, to accept receipt of a sample, to exchange a coupon for a tobacco product or tobacco substitute, or to~~  
137 ~~present or offer to another person a purported proof of age which is false, fraudulent or not actually that person's own proof~~  
138 ~~of age, for the purpose of purchasing or receiving any tobacco product or tobacco substitute or redeeming a coupon for a~~  
139 ~~tobacco product or tobacco substitute.~~

140 (b) ~~A person who violates subsection (a) of this section shall be adjudged delinquent and shall for a first~~  
141 ~~adjudication be fined \$50 or ordered to perform 25 hours of community service work, and for a second adjudication and for~~  
142 ~~all subsequent adjudications be fined \$50 and ordered to perform 50 hours of community service work. A subsequent~~  
143 ~~adjudication of delinquency is one that occurs within 12 months of a prior like offense.~~

144 Section 10. Amend § 1125, Title 11 of the Delaware Code by making deletions as shown by strike through and  
145 insertions as shown by underline as follows:

146 § 1125. Unannounced inspections; reporting; enforcement.

147 (b) ~~Persons~~ An individual under the age of ~~18~~ 21 may be enlisted by the Department of Safety and Homeland  
148 Security or its delegates to test compliance with and enforcement of §§ ~~1116-1120 and 1124~~ §§ 1116 through 1120 and §  
149 1124 of this title, provided however, that ~~such persons~~ the individual may be used only under the direct supervision of the  
150 Department of ~~Public Safety,~~ Safety and Homeland Security, its employees or delegates and only where written parental  
151 consent has been ~~provided.~~ provided for an individual under the age of 18.

152 (c) Participation in the inspection and enforcement activities of this section by ~~a person~~ an individual under ~~18~~ 21  
153 years of age shall not constitute a violation of this subpart for the ~~person~~ individual under ~~18~~ 21 years of age, and the  
154 ~~person~~ individual under ~~18~~ 21 years of age is immune from prosecution thereunder, or under any other provision of law  
155 prohibiting the purchase of these products by ~~a person~~ an individual under ~~18~~ 21 years of age.

156 (d) The Department of Safety and Homeland Security shall adopt and publish guidelines for the use of ~~persons~~  
157 individuals under ~~18~~ 21 years of age in inspections conducted ~~pursuant to~~ under this section.

158 Section 11. Amend § 2908, Title 16 of the Delaware Code by making deletions as shown by strike through and  
159 insertions as shown by underline as follows:

160 § 2908. Vapor establishments.

161 (b) Any vapor establishment permitted to have emissions produced by electronic smoking devices in such vapor  
162 establishment pursuant to this section, and which permits such emissions, shall prohibit anyone under the age of ~~18~~ 21 from  
163 entering and shall display a sign at all entrances stating that no one under the age of ~~18~~ 21 is allowed in such vapor  
164 establishment.

165 Section 12. Amend § 5361, Title 30 of the Delaware Code by making deletions as shown by strike through and  
166 insertions as shown by underline as follows:

167 § 5361. Definitions.

168 For purposes of this subchapter:

169 (1) "Adult" means a person who is at least the legal minimum purchase age.

170 (6) "Legal minimum purchase age" is the minimum age at which an individual may legally purchase any  
171 tobacco product in this ~~State~~. State under § 1124 of Title 11.

172 (11) ~~"Tobacco products" means 1 or more cigarettes, herbal cigarettes, bidis, chewing tobacco, powdered~~  
173 ~~tobacco, snuff or any other, noncigar or nonpipe tobacco product.~~ a. "Tobacco product" means any of the following:

174 1. A product, including a cigarette, cigar, hookah, pipe tobacco, chewing tobacco, snuff, or snus, that  
175 is all of the following:

176 A. Intended for human consumption or likely to be consumed, by any means, including  
177 smoking, heating, chewing, absorbing, dissolving, inhaling, or ingesting.

178 B. Made from or derived from tobacco or that contains nicotine.

179 2. A vapor product.

180 3. A component or accessory used in the consumption of a tobacco product, including filters, rolling  
181 papers, and pipes.

182 4. A liquid used in an electronic smoking device, including liquids that contain nicotine and liquids  
183 that do not contain nicotine.

184 5. An electronic smoking device.

185 b. "Tobacco product" does not mean a drug, device, or combination product authorized for sale by the  
186 United States Food and Drug Administration under the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 USCS §§  
187 301 et seq.).

188 Section 13. Amend § 5363, Title 30 of the Delaware Code by making deletions as shown by strike through and  
189 insertions as shown by underline as follows:

190 § 5363. Age verification requirements.

191 (a) No person shall mail, ship or otherwise deliver any tobacco product in connection with a delivery sale unless  
192 prior to the 1st delivery sale to such consumer:

193 (1) Receives both a copy of a valid form of government identification showing date of birth to verify the  
194 purchaser is age ~~18~~ 21 years or over and an attestation from the purchaser certifying that the information on the  
195 government identification truly and correctly identifies the purchaser and the purchaser's current address. Such  
196 attestation shall also confirm:

197 a. That the prospective consumer understands that signing another person's name to such certification is  
198 illegal;

199 b. That the sale of tobacco products, including cigarettes, to individuals under the legal minimum  
200 purchase age is illegal; and

201 c. That the purchase of tobacco products, including cigarettes, by individuals under the legal minimum  
202 purchase age is illegal under the laws of this State;

203 (c) Any wholesale or retail seller of cigars or pipe tobacco shall affirm that the purchaser of said product is ~~18~~ 21  
204 years of age or older before the time of sale.

205 Section 14. Amend § 5365, Title 30 of the Delaware Code by making deletions as shown by strike through and  
206 insertions as shown by underline as follows:

207 § 5365. Shipping requirements.

208 (a) Each person who mails, ships or otherwise delivers ~~any a tobacco product~~ product, as defined under § 5301 of  
209 this title, in connection with a delivery sale shall become affixing agents as defined ~~by under~~ § 5301 of this title and shall be  
210 eligible to receive commissions ~~pursuant to under~~ § 5318 of this title and further shall: title. Each person who mails, ships  
211 or otherwise delivers a tobacco product, as defined under § 5361 of this title, must do all of the following:

212 (1) Include as part of the bill of lading or other shipping documents a clear and conspicuous statement  
213 providing as follows: "Any Tobacco Product: Delaware Law Prohibits Shipping to Individuals Under ~~18~~ 21, and  
214 Requires the Payment of all Applicable Taxes";

215 (2) Use a method of mailing, shipping or delivery that obligates the delivery service to require:

216 a. The consumer placing the purchase order for the delivery sale or another adult of legal minimum  
217 purchase age residing at the consumer's address, to sign to accept delivery of the shipping container; and

218 b. Proof, in the form of a valid, government-issued identification bearing a photograph of the individual  
219 who signs to accept delivery of the shipping container, demonstrating that the individual is either the addressee or  
220 another adult of legal minimum purchase age residing at the consumer's address.

221 However, proof of the legal minimum purchase age shall be required only if such individual appears to be  
222 under ~~27~~ 30 years of age; and

223 (3) Provide to the delivery service retained for such delivery sale evidence of full compliance with § 5367 of  
224 this title.

#### SYNOPSIS

This Act restricts access to tobacco products and tobacco substitutes to individuals under age 21 by doing all of the following:

1. Prohibits sales of tobacco products or tobacco substitutes to individuals who are under 21.
2. Imposes a civil penalty for sales to individuals between the ages of 18 and 21.
3. Repeals the ability of a parent or guardian to purchase tobacco products or tobacco substitutes for a minor.



4. Revises the framework by which an employer may use an affirmative defense to the improper sale of tobacco products or tobacco substitutes, aligning the affirmative defense with the minimum age increase.
5. Adopts best practices for enforcement measures by modifying the prohibition against the purchase of tobacco products by minors.
6. Prohibits individuals under age 21 from entering vapor establishments.

This Act also makes technical corrections to conform existing law to the standards of the Delaware Legislative Drafting Manual.

Author: Senator Townsend