

Executive Summary: Health Impact Review of SHB 1458

Concerning the Age of Individuals at Which Sale or Distribution of Tobacco and Vapor Products May be Made

Evidence indicates that SHB 1458 would likely decrease use of tobacco and vapor products among youth and young adults, thereby improving health outcomes. It is unclear how the bill would impact health disparities, though some evidence suggests that the effect on disparities may be neutral.

BILL INFORMATION

Sponsors: Representatives Orwall, Goodman, Pettigrew, Ryu, Stanford, Gregerson, Jinkins, Bergquist, McBride, Magendanz, Cody, Kagi, S. Hunt, Pollet

By Request: Attorney General

Summary of Bill:

- Changes the minimum age at which a person may purchase and possess cigarettes, tobacco products, and vapor products from 18 to 21 years old.
- Modifies the definition of a “vapor product.”

HEALTH IMPACT REVIEW

Summary of Findings:

This Health Impact Review found the following evidence regarding the provisions in SHB 1458:

- A fair amount of evidence that changing the minimum age for purchase and possession of tobacco and vapor products from 18 years to 21 years of age will decrease use of tobacco and vapor products among youth and young adults.
- Very strong evidence that decreasing use of tobacco and vapor products among youth and young adults will improve health outcomes.
- Unclear evidence for the bill’s impacts on health disparities. Some evidence indicates that increasing the minimum purchase age is associated with decreased smoking rates across income, race/ethnicity, and grade level—indicating that the impacts of the bill on health disparities is potentially neutral. However this is only preliminary evidence and a large body of evidence has not yet been established. Other factors may also influence how this bill impacts disparities such as access to tobacco on tribal lands and military bases, the potential disparate impacts of possession laws on youth and young adults of color, and smoking rates during pregnancy. Each of these factors is analyzed in more detail in the full Health Impact Review.

FULL REVIEW

For review methods, logic model, strength-of-evidence analyses, and citations of empirical evidence refer to the full health impact review:

<http://sboh.wa.gov/Portals/7/Doc/HealthImpactReviews/HIR-2015-12-SHB1458.pdf>

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