

Executive Summary: Health Impact Review of HB 2969

Concerning Vapor Product Taxation

Evidence indicates that HB 2969 would likely decrease vaping rates in Washington State, thereby improving health outcomes and decreasing health disparities by socioeconomic status in the state.

BILL INFORMATION

Sponsors: Representatives Harris, Cody, Pollet, Robinson, Jinkins

Summary of Bill:

- Imposes a 45% tax on the taxable sales prices of vapor products.
- Creates a distributor and retailer license to distribute or sell vapor products in Washington.
- Requires that, at a minimum, 3% of the revenues collected from the vapor products tax be appropriated from the general fund to the Cancer Research Endowment Fund Match Transfer Account.

HEALTH IMPACT REVIEW

Summary of Findings:

This Health Impact Review found the following evidence regarding the provisions in HB 2969:

- A fair amount of evidence that a tax on vaping products would lead to reduced vaping rates in Washington State. While there is an extensive body of evidence indicating that taxes on combustible cigarettes have led to reduced smoking rates, it is unclear how generalizable these studies are to vaping products specifically—so the strength of the evidence was downgraded to reflect this uncertainty.
- Strong evidence that decreased vaping rates would lead to improved health outcomes.
- A fair amount of evidence that improving health outcomes through an excise tax on vaping products would lead to reduced health disparities by socioeconomic status. While there is a large body of evidence indicating that taxes on combustible cigarettes have led to greater reductions in smoking among individuals with lower socioeconomic status it is unclear how generalizable these studies are to vaping products specifically—so the strength of the evidence was downgraded to reflect this uncertainty. The evidence for the potential effects on health disparities by race/ethnicity are less clear and are discussed 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-2016-05-HB2969.pdf>

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