



Public Health Committee

March 4, 2019

The Connecticut Conference of Municipalities (CCM) is Connecticut's statewide association of towns and cities and the voice of local government - your partners in governing Connecticut. Our members represent 99% of Connecticut's population.

HB 7200 “An Act Prohibiting the Sale of Cigarettes, Tobacco Products, Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems and Vapor Products to Persons Under Age Twenty-One”

The bill would, among other things, raise the statewide legal age to buy tobacco – including vaping and Electronic Nicotine Delivery products – from 18 to 21.

It has been scientifically supported that the health effectiveness of smoking can be reduced from not smoking, or at a minimum, delay the start of smoking. Many smokers start smoking when in high school, and is certainly exacerbated by their legal access to tobacco products. By raising the tobacco sale age, it is a proactive step towards reducing access to tobacco products and a lifetime of addiction and associated health problems.

Several cities throughout the State have already enacted local ordinances to raise the age to purchase tobacco products, and several others have considered similar ordinances. A statewide initiative will prevent ambiguity and confusion amongst municipal boundaries and enforcing authorities.

CCM urges the Committee to **favorably report** HB 7200.

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If you have any questions, please contact Mike Muszynski, Advocacy Manager of CCM at mmuszynski@ccm-ct.org or 203-500-7556.