

Vaping Awareness Prevention Enforcement

CO-SPONSORSHIP MEMORANDUM

DATE: January 21, 2020

TO: All Legislators

FROM: Rep. Sondy Pope, Sen. Chris Larson, Rep. Debra Kolste, Rep. David Crowley and Sen. Patty Schachtner

RE: LRB-5342/1 – relating to: prohibiting vaping on public and private school property

SHORT DEADLINE: Friday, January 24th at 5:00pm

Last year, the Department of Health Services issued a health advisory on youth vaping to inform parents, teachers, health professionals, and the general public of the risks associated with youth vaping. While efforts to reduce youth use of conventional cigarettes over the past few decades have largely been successful, between 2014 and 2018 vape usage among youth in Wisconsin skyrocketed 154%. Today, 1 in 5 high school students report using vaping products. The Vaping Awareness Prevention Enforcement package will build upon and bolster ongoing efforts to prevent youth exposure to health risks of vaping.

The negative effects of child and adolescent tobacco use is well documented. In recent years, traditional tobacco cigarettes have given way to electronic cigarettes, sometimes known by other terms such as “e-cigs” or “vapes” etc. A growing number of studies have indicated that e-cigarettes, and their secondhand aerosols, contain dangerous and cancer-causing chemicals. Chemicals found in e-cigarette aerosols include propylene glycol, nicotine, heavy metals, volatile organic compounds, and more. While the long-term effects of e-cigarettes are still unknown, exposure to chemicals found in e-cigarettes and their aerosols can be especially problematic to children’s health and development.

The most recent data from the [Center for Disease Control](#) (CDC) shows that between 2018 and 2019, the number of middle and high school students using e-cigarettes rose 50% from 3.6 million to 5.4 million. From a long-term perspective, the rates for students who have reported using an electronic cigarette in the past 30 days have skyrocketed since 2011, with middle school student usage rising from 0.6% to 10.5%, and high school students rising from 1.5% to 27.5%.

This disturbing trend is particularly concerning with evidence suggesting that e-cigarette manufacturers are marketing their products to children using colorful packaging and flavors such as bubble gum and various fruit and candy flavors. In 2018, 67% of high school students and 49% of middle school students who used tobacco products in the past 30 days, reported using a flavored product.

In order to combat this public health crisis within our schools, **LRB-5342/1** prohibits vaping on school premises.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

This bill prohibits vaping on school premise. Under the bill, “school premises” is defined as any real property owned by, rented by, or under the control of a school board, operator or governing boards of an independent charter school, or governing body of a private school. “School premises” includes outdoor spaces such as playgrounds and athletic fields. The bill defines vaping as inhaling or exhaling vapor from a vapor product, regardless of whether the liquid or other substance being heated to produce the vapor contains nicotine.

****If you are interested in co-sponsoring this bill please contact my office at 266-3520 or reply to this email (Rep.Pope@legis.wi.gov).**

*****Anyone who signs on to the Assembly version will automatically be added to the Senate version unless indicated otherwise.***