

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2013

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SENATE BILL 530
Health Care Committee Substitute Adopted 5/2/13
Judiciary I Committee Substitute Adopted 5/7/13
House Committee Substitute Favorable 6/3/13

Short Title: Prohibit E-Cigarette Sales to Minors.

(Public)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

April 1, 2013

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO PROHIBIT THE DISTRIBUTION OF TOBACCO-DERIVED PRODUCTS
3 AND VAPOR PRODUCTS TO MINORS.

4 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

5 SECTION 1. G.S. 14-313 reads as rewritten:

6 "Article 39.

7 "Protection of Minors.

8 "§ 14-313. Youth access to tobacco ~~products~~products, tobacco-derived products, vapor
9 products, and cigarette wrapping papers.

10 (a) Definitions. – The following definitions apply in this section:

11 (1) Distribute. – To sell, furnish, give, or provide tobacco products, including
12 tobacco product ~~samples~~samples or cigarette wrapping ~~papers~~papers, to the
13 ultimate consumer.

14 (2) Proof of age. – A drivers license or other photographic identification that
15 includes the bearer's date of birth that purports to establish that the person is
16 18 years of age or older.

17 (3) Sample. – A tobacco product distributed to members of the general public at
18 no cost for the purpose of promoting the product.

19 (3a) Tobacco-derived product. – Any noncombustible product derived from
20 tobacco that contains nicotine and is intended for human consumption,
21 whether chewed, absorbed, dissolved, ingested, or by other means. This term
22 does not include a vapor product or any product regulated by the United
23 States Food and Drug Administration under Chapter V of the federal Food,
24 Drug, and Cosmetic Act.

25 (4) Tobacco product. – Any product that contains tobacco and is intended for
26 human consumption. For purposes of this section, the term includes a
27 tobacco-derived product, vapor product, or components of a vapor product.

28 (5) Vapor product. – Any noncombustible product that employs a mechanical
29 heating element, battery, or electronic circuit regardless of shape or size and
30 that can be used to heat a liquid nicotine solution contained in a vapor
31 cartridge. The term includes an electronic cigarette, electronic cigar,
32 electronic cigarillo, and electronic pipe. The term does not include any
33 product regulated by the United States Food and Drug Administration under
34 Chapter V of the federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act.



1 (b) Sale or distribution to persons under the age of 18 years. – If any person shall
2 distribute, or aid, assist, or abet any other person in distributing tobacco products or cigarette
3 wrapping papers to any person under the age of 18 years, or if any person shall purchase
4 tobacco products or cigarette wrapping papers on behalf of a ~~person, less than~~ person under the
5 age of 18 years, the person shall be guilty of a Class 2 misdemeanor; provided, however, that it
6 shall not be unlawful to distribute tobacco products or cigarette wrapping papers to an
7 employee when required in the performance of the employee's duties. Retail distributors of
8 tobacco products shall prominently display near the point of sale a sign in letters at least
9 five-eighths of an inch high which states the following:

10
11 N.C. LAW STRICTLY PROHIBITS

12
13 THE PURCHASE OF TOBACCO PRODUCTS, TOBACCO-DERIVED
14 PRODUCTS, VAPOR PRODUCTS, AND CIGARETTE WRAPPING PAPERS.

15
16 BY PERSONS UNDER THE AGE OF 18.

17
18 PROOF OF AGE REQUIRED.

19
20 Failure to post the required sign shall be an infraction punishable by a fine of twenty-five
21 dollars (\$25.00) for the first offense and seventy-five dollars (\$75.00) for each succeeding
22 offense.

23 A person engaged in the sale of tobacco products or cigarette wrapping papers shall demand
24 proof of age from a prospective purchaser if the person has reasonable grounds to believe that
25 the prospective purchaser is under 18 years of age. Failure to demand proof of age as required
26 by this subsection is a Class 2 misdemeanor if in fact the prospective purchaser is under 18
27 years of age. Retail distributors of tobacco products or cigarette wrapping papers shall train
28 their sales employees in the requirements of this law. Proof of any of the following shall be a
29 defense to any action brought under this subsection:

- 30 (1) The defendant demanded, was shown, and reasonably relied upon proof of
31 age in the case of a retailer, or any other documentary or written evidence of
32 age in the case of a nonretailer.
- 33 (2) The defendant relied on the electronic system established and operated by
34 the Division of Motor Vehicles pursuant to G.S. 20-37.02.
- 35 (3) The defendant relied on a biometric identification system that demonstrated
36 (i) the purchaser's age to be at least the required age for the purchase and (ii)
37 the purchaser had previously registered with the seller or seller's agent a
38 drivers license, a special identification card issued under G.S. 20-377.7, a
39 military identification card, or a passport showing the purchaser's date of
40 birth and bearing a physical description of the person named on the card.

41 (b1) ~~Vending machines.~~ Distribution of tobacco products. – Tobacco products shall not
42 be distributed in vending machines; provided, however, vending machines distributing tobacco
43 products are permitted (i) in any establishment which is open only to persons 18 years of age
44 and older; or (ii) in any establishment if the vending machine is under the continuous control of
45 the owner or licensee of the premises or an employee thereof and can be operated only upon
46 activation by the owner, licensee, or employee prior to each purchase and the vending machine
47 is not accessible to the public when the establishment is closed. The owner, licensee, or
48 employee shall demand proof of age from a prospective purchaser if the person has reasonable
49 grounds to believe that the prospective purchaser is under 18 years of age. Failure to demand
50 proof of age as required by this subsection is a Class 2 misdemeanor if in fact the prospective
51 purchaser is under 18 years of age. Proof that the defendant demanded, was shown, and

1 reasonably relied upon proof of age shall be a defense to any action brought under this
2 subsection. Vending machines distributing tobacco products in establishments not meeting the
3 above conditions shall be removed prior to December 1, 1997. Vending machines distributing
4 tobacco-derived products, vapor products, or components of vapor products in establishments
5 not meeting the above conditions shall be removed prior to August 1, 2013. Any person
6 distributing tobacco products through vending machines in violation of this subsection shall be
7 guilty of a Class 2 misdemeanor.

8 (b2) Internet distribution of tobacco products. – A person engaged in the distribution of
9 tobacco products through the Internet or other remote sales methods shall perform an age
10 verification through an independent, third-party age verification service that compares
11 information available from public records to the personal information entered by the individual
12 during the ordering process to establish that the individual ordering the tobacco products is 18
13 years of age or older.

14 (c) Purchase by persons under the age of 18 years. – If any person under the age of 18
15 years purchases or accepts receipt, or attempts to purchase or accept receipt, of tobacco
16 products or cigarette wrapping papers, or presents or offers to any person any purported proof
17 of age which is false, fraudulent, or not actually his or her own, for the purpose of purchasing
18 or receiving any tobacco product or cigarette wrapping papers, the person shall be guilty of a
19 Class 2 ~~misdemeanor~~misdemeanor; provided, however, that it shall not be unlawful for an
20 employee to purchase or accept receipt of tobacco products or cigarette wrapping papers when
21 required in the performance of the employee's duties.

22 (d) ~~Send or assist~~Sending or assisting a person less than 18 years to purchase or receive
23 tobacco product~~products or cigarette wrapping papers.~~ – If any person shall send a person less
24 than 18 years of age to purchase, acquire, receive, or attempt to purchase, acquire, or receive
25 tobacco products or cigarette wrapping papers, or if any person shall aid or abet a person who is
26 less than 18 years of age in purchasing, acquiring, or receiving or attempting to purchase,
27 acquire, or receive tobacco products or cigarette wrapping papers, the person shall be guilty of
28 a Class 2 misdemeanor; provided, however, persons under the age of 18 may be enlisted by
29 police or local sheriffs' departments to test compliance if the testing is under the direct
30 supervision of that law enforcement department and written parental consent is provided;
31 provided further, that the Department of Health and Human Services shall have the authority,
32 pursuant to a written plan prepared by the Secretary of Health and Human Services, to use
33 persons under 18 years of age in annual, random, unannounced inspections, provided that prior
34 written parental consent is given for the involvement of these persons and that the inspections
35 are conducted for the sole purpose of preparing a scientifically and methodologically valid
36 statistical study of the extent of success the State has achieved in reducing the availability of
37 tobacco products to persons under the age of 18, and preparing any report to the extent required
38 by section 1926 of the federal Public Health Service Act (42 USC § 300x-26).

39 (e) Statewide uniformity. – It is the intent of the General Assembly to prescribe this
40 uniform system for the regulation of tobacco products and cigarette wrapping papers to ensure
41 the eligibility for and receipt of any federal funds or grants that the State now receives or may
42 receive relating to the provisions of G.S. 14-313. To ensure uniformity, no political
43 subdivisions, boards, or agencies of the State nor any county, city, municipality, municipal
44 corporation, town, township, village, nor any department or agency thereof, may enact
45 ordinances, rules or regulations concerning the sale, distribution, display or promotion of (i)
46 tobacco products or cigarette wrapping papers on or after September 1, ~~1995-1995~~, or (ii)
47 tobacco-derived products or vapor products on or after August 1, 2013. This subsection does
48 not apply to the regulation of vending machines, nor does it prohibit the Secretary of Revenue
49 from adopting rules with respect to the administration of the tobacco products taxes levied
50 under Article 2A of Chapter 105 of the General Statutes.

1 (f) Deferred prosecution. – Notwithstanding G.S. 15A-1341(a1), any person charged
2 with a misdemeanor under this section shall be qualified for deferred prosecution pursuant to
3 Article 82 of Chapter 15A of the General Statutes provided the defendant has not previously
4 been placed on probation for a violation of this section and so states under oath."

5 **SECTION 2.** Nothing in this act shall be construed to affect the taxation of tobacco
6 products, tobacco-derived products, vapor products, or components of a vapor product.

7 **SECTION 3.** If any provision of this act or its application is held invalid, the
8 invalidity does not affect other provisions or applications of this act that can be given effect
9 without the invalid provisions or applications, and to this end the provisions of this act are
10 severable.

11 **SECTION 4.** This act becomes effective August 1, 2013, and applies to offenses
12 committed on or after that date.