

SUPPORT HOUSE BILL 1076

MODERNIZE THE COLORADO CLEAN INDOOR AIR ACT

Prohibit E-Cigarettes in Public Places & Protect the Right to Breathe Smoke-Free Air

Electronic smoking devices, commonly referred to as “e-cigarettes” or “vaping,” are a diverse group of products which are typically battery-operated products designed to deliver a heated solution, or aerosol of nicotine and other chemicals to the user. The aerosols in e-cigarettes can increase a consumer’s exposure to carcinogens and heavy metals like lead and arsenic, both directly and through secondhand smoke. In addition, nicotine remains addictive and toxic, and it has a negative impact on the developing brain.

In 2017, 44 percent of Colorado youth reported trying e-cigarettes at least once in the last year and 27 percent reported current use. Colorado has the highest rate of teen e-cigarette use in the nation. The U.S. Surgeon General recently announced that teen e-cigarettes use across the country has reached “epidemic” levels. Despite the known damage that nicotine can have on the developing brain, only 50 percent of Colorado youth believe e-cigarettes are risky. In contrast, 87 percent believe smoking cigarettes poses a threat to their health. **A key strategy to addressing youth use of these products is to eliminate the use of them in public spaces and workplaces, as youth can be highly sensitive to normalization and perceptions of harm based on what they see in their environment.**

In 2006, Colorado passed the Clean Indoor Air Act, prohibiting smoking in enclosed public places like restaurants, bars, casinos, libraries, hospitals, grocery stores, child care facilities and public transportation. Marijuana smoking was added to the law in 2013. **There is no safe level of exposure to secondhand smoke and smoke-free laws are an effective way to protect people.** Secondhand smoke can cause premature death and disease in children and in adults who do not smoke. Smoke-free policies help reduce secondhand smoke exposure and tobacco use, help people quit, keep youth from initiating tobacco use, and can lead to substantial reductions in healthcare costs.

Annual health care costs in Colorado directly attributed to smoking are placed at \$1.89 billion, according to the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Well-supported research suggests that the implementation of smoke-free laws can contribute to reductions in smoking rates and lead to direct population-level health benefits, such as declines in heart disease morbidity and improvements in respiratory health.

It’s time to modernize the Clean Indoor Air Act. From Utah to North Dakota and Massachusetts, fifteen states across the country have already added e-cigarettes to their smoke-free laws, and dozens of local governments in Colorado have adopted local smoke-free restrictions on e-cigarettes. This bill will add electronic smoking devices to the Clean Indoor Air Act and prohibit the use of these products in public places and workplaces. Additionally, the proposal will remove antiquated exemptions to protect everyone’s right to breathe smoke-free air. Restaurants, hotels and other businesses need legal clarity on prohibited products, so they can clearly and consistently communicate to their customers and comply with the law.

Updating the Clean Indoor Air Act will help address the alarming rates of e-cigarette use among teens, reduce secondhand exposure, and protect the right of Coloradans to breathe smoke-free air.

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