

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE



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HB 40: “An Act relating to the use of electronic cigarettes”

Sponsor Statement

HB 40: “An Act relating to the use of electronic cigarettes”, would add electronic cigarettes to the statutory definition of smoking, thereby making it illegal state-wide to smoke e-cigs everywhere regular smoking is currently prohibited, including: public transportation vehicles, places of state employment, postsecondary educational institutions, a courtroom, a nursing home, a grocery store, a restaurant with over 50-person capacity, etc.

A May 21, 2014 Electronic Cigarette and Aerosol Emissions Product Update and Position statement from the Alaska Department of Health & Social Service clearly states:

“Secondhand e-cigarette aerosol ... contains nicotine, ultrafine particles and low levels of toxins that are known to cause cancer. The FDA's initial investigation into the content of e-cigarettes found the aerosol potentially hazardous to the public's health due to tobacco-specific nitrosamines and other volatile organic compounds.”

While the airborne aerosol from e-cigs is reportedly less dangerous than second-hand cigarette smoke, it does still contain chemicals not everyone wishes to ingest. It also greatly depends on the type of e-cigarette – the industry is not yet well-regulated. The intent here is certainly not to discourage the use of e-cigarettes as a way to help quit smoking – but it’s important for those users to consider the negative impacts on innocent bystanders.