

Alaska State Senate

Sen. Mia Costello, Chair
Alaska State Capitol, Room 504
Juneau, AK 99801
Phone: (907) 465-4968



Members:
Sen. Shelley Hughes, Vice Chair
Sen. Kevin Meyer
Sen. Gary Stevens
Sen. Berta Gardner

Senate Labor & Commerce Committee CS for SENATE BILL 15 (L&C) Ver. R

“An Act relating to possession of an electronic smoking product or a product containing nicotine by a minor and to selling or giving an electronic smoking product to a minor; relating to business license endorsements to sell cigarettes, cigars, tobacco, products containing tobacco, electronic smoking products, or products containing nicotine; and relating to citations for certain offenses concerning tobacco or nicotine products.”

SUMMARY OF CHANGES FROM VERSION A to VERSION R

March 2, 2017

The Department of Commerce, Community, & Economic Development requested penalties associated with violations of the law restricting youth access to tobacco and E-Cigarette products be increased to more effectively compel compliance, as described below.

CSSB 15 (L&C) Version R, increases the criminal and civil penalties (fines) associated with violating the law by selling tobacco, products containing nicotine, or E-Cigarette products to minors, as follows:

1. Under AS 43.70.075(d), the person holding the business license endorsement is fined the following:
 - 1st offense: a civil penalty of \$1,000 (increased from \$300)
 - 2nd offense: a civil penalty of \$2,000 (increased from \$500)
 - 3rd offense: a civil penalty of \$4,000 (increased from \$1,000)
 - After 3 convictions: suspend license indefinitely (increased from 1 year) and a civil penalty of \$10,000 (increased from \$2,500)

The only other substantive change in Version R is regarding the required product 'warning' signage. The verbiage is consolidated to include reference to tobacco products, products containing nicotine, or "electronic smoking products," as being illegal to sell to persons under the age of 19. The dimensions of the signage were reduced to 8.5" x 11" to allow for more efficient means for DCED to e-mail signage to vendors, and for vendors to print and post signage on their own. This change will reduce the current fiscal note considerably.