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Senator Gary Stevens

CS for SENATE BILL 15 (L&C)

Restricting Youth Access to E-Cigarettes

SUMMARY OF CHANGES

FROM VERSION A TO VERSION R (L&C)

March 06, 2017

The Alaska Department of Commerce and Economic Development (DCED) requested the penalties associated with violations of the law relating to restricting youth access to tobacco and E-Cigarette products be increased to more effectively compel compliance, and for revenues to more sufficiently pay for the costs of enforcement.

Specifically, CS for SB 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, following repeated convictions within a 2-year period, is fined the following:

1st offense: a civil penalty of \$1,000 (from \$300)

2nd offense: a civil penalty of \$2,000 (from \$500)

3rd offense: a civil penalty of \$4,000 (from \$1,000)

After 3 convictions: suspend license indefinitely (from 1-year) and a civil penalty of \$10,000 (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.

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