

HB

189

Alaska State Legislature  
House of Representatives

Alaska State Capitol  
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Representative Harry Crawford  
District 21

E-mail: [Representative\\_Harry\\_Crawford@legis.state.ak.us](mailto:Representative_Harry_Crawford@legis.state.ak.us)

**Five Good Reasons to Raise the Legal Smoking Age to 21**

1. **Approximately 90 percent of smokers begin smoking before the age of 21.** Each day, about 6,000 adolescents try a cigarette for the first time; about 3,000 become daily smokers.
2. **But smoking addiction does not develop among adults. Among those over the age of 21 who take up smoking for the first time, more than 90 percent soon drop it completely.**
3. **Of an estimated 16.6 million smokers in the U.S. (1995 figures), 5.3 million will die prematurely from smoking-related disease, resulting in an estimated \$200 billion in health care costs (about \$12,000 per smoker) and about 64 million years of potential life lost (12 to 21 years per smoking-related deaths).**
4. **Cigarette smoking is considered to be the single most preventable contributor to chronic diseases.**
5. **Cigarette smoking during childhood and adolescence produces significant health problems among young people. A starting age of smoking of earlier than 21 more than doubles the risk of developing future smoking-related diseases. It is critical that access of minors to tobacco products be reduced, and raising the legal smoking age to 21 would result in significant future savings in health costs.**

## Bibliography

San Diego (CA) Union-Tribune, August 21, 2002, "Senate kills measure to raise legal smoking age to 21"

American Lung Association State of the Air 2002, www.lungusa.org, "Adolescent Smoking Statistics), January 2003

Bawazeer, A.A., Hattab, A.S., and Morales, E., www.emro.who.int, "First cigarette smoking experience among secondary-school students in Aden, Republic of Yemen"

Denys, Bart G., M.D., Cardiovasculatr Institute of the South, "Smoking: the particular risks of starting young", 1999

Lando, Harry A., Society for Research on Nicotine and Tobacco, Nicotine & Tobacco Research, December 18, 2000

Moyer, David, M.D., The Tobacco Reference Guide, "Children and teen smoking"

### Points of Interest

It is understandable that the American Medical Association endorses raising the legal limit for the possession and purchase of tobacco products to 21 years of age.

It is understandable that the intent is to reduce the initiation of use of tobacco products by raising the legal age in Alaska for tobacco purchase, sale, exchange or possession from 19 to 21 years of age.

BUT.....

Currently, there are three states that require persons to be 19 years of age to purchase or possess tobacco:

- Alaska
- Alabama
- Utah

All the remaining states legalize tobacco purchases at age 18

Alaska already has one of the highest standards

Is it fair that a person be able to fight for his or her country at age 18 but not be able to purchase cigarettes until they are 21?

Is it fair that we hold 18 year old responsible as adults in our court systems, but tell them they can not purchase tobacco until they are 21?

# FISCAL NOTE

**STATE OF ALASKA**  
**2003 LEGISLATIVE SESSION**

Fiscal Note Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Bill Version: HB 189  
 () Publish Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Revision Date/Time (Note if correction): \_\_\_\_\_ Dept. Affected: Law  
 Title "An Act raising the age for purchase, sale, BRU Criminal Division  
exchange, or possession of tobacco to age 21." Component All  
 Sponsor Representative Crawford  
 Requester House C&RA Committee Component No. \_\_\_\_\_

**Expenditures/Revenues** (Thousands of Dollars)

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below.

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 2004	FY 2005	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009
Personal Services						
Travel						
Contractual						
Supplies						
Equipment						
Land & Structures						
Grants & Claims						
Miscellaneous						
<b>TOTAL OPERATING</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>

<b>CAPITAL EXPENDITURES</b>						
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<b>CHANGE IN REVENUES ( )</b>						
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**FUND SOURCE** (Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts						
1003 GF Match						
1004 GF						
1005 GF/Program Receipts						
1037 GF/Mental Health						
Other (Specify Type--Do not abbreviate)						
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>

Estimate of any current year (FY2003) cost: 0.0  
 Check this box (X) if funding for this bill is included in the Governor's FY 2004 budget proposal:

**POSITIONS**

Full-time						
Part-time						
Temporary						

**ANALYSIS:** (Attach a separate page if necessary)

This bill raises the age to purchase, sell, exchange, or possess tobacco to from 19 to 21.

The penalties included in this bill are violations, which are handled by the court and law enforcement without the assistance of state prosecutors. Passage of this bill will have no fiscal impact on the Department of Law.

Prepared by: Joan M. Kasson Phone (907) 465-5370  
 Division Attorney General's Office Date/Time 3/24/03 1:46 PM  
 Approved by: Joan M. Kasson for Gregg D. Renkes, Attorney General Date 3/24/2003  
 Agency Department of Law

# FISCAL NOTE

**STATE OF ALASKA**  
**2003 LEGISLATIVE SESSION**

Fiscal Note Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Bill Version: HB 189  
 ( ) Publish Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Dept. Affected: Health & Social Services  
 BRU State Health Services  
 Component Tobacco Prevention and Control

Revision Date/Time (Note if correction): \_\_\_\_\_  
 Title INCREASE AGE FOR POSSESSION OF TOBACCO TO 21

Sponsor CRAWFORD  
 Requester HOUSE (CRA)

Component No. 2384

**Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)**

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below.

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 2004	FY 2005	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009
Personal Services						
Travel						
Contractual						
Supplies						
Equipment						
Land & Structures						
Grants & Claims						
Miscellaneous						
<b>TOTAL OPERATING</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>

<b>CAPITAL EXPENDITURES</b>						
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<b>CHANGE IN REVENUES (0)</b>						
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**FUND SOURCE (Thousands of Dollars)**

1002 Federal Receipts						
1003 GF Match						
1004 GF						
1005 GF/Program Receipts						
1037 GF/Mental Health						
Other(Specify Type-do not abbreviate)						
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>

Estimate of any current year (FY2003) cost: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mark this box (X) if funding for this bill is included in the Governor's FY 2004 budget proposal:

**POSITIONS**

Full-time						
Part-time						
Temporary						

**ANALYSIS:** (Attach a separate page if necessary)

The intent of this bill is to reduce the initiation of use of tobacco products by raising the legal age in Alaska for tobacco purchase, sale, exchange or possession from 19 to 21 years of age.

The American Medical Association endorses raising the legal limit for the possession and purchase of tobacco products to 21 years of age. Currently, there are three states that require persons to be 19 years of age to purchase or possess tobacco, Alaska, Alabama and Utah. The remaining states legalize tobacco purchases at age 18.

Prepared by: Elmer A. Lindstrom Phone 465-1613  
 Division Office of the Commissioner Date/Time 03/24/2003  
 Approved by: Joel S. Gilbertson, Commissioner Date 03/24/2003  
 Agency Department of Health and Social Services

FISCAL NOTE  
FN #

STATE OF ALASKA  
2003 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO. HB 189

ANALYSIS CONTINUATION

Raising the legal age to purchase tobacco would send an important message that tobacco is a dangerous product. However there is little evidence that this action would significantly reduce the prevalence of smoking insofar as the majority of adult smokers began smoking before the age of 19, the current legal age in Alaska.

This bill will have no significant impact on the state tobacco control program and therefore the department anticipates no fiscal impact.



# Alaska State Legislature

## House Committee on Community and Regional Affairs

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**Representative Carl Morgan, Chair**  
State Capitol Building, Room 408  
Juneau, AK 99801  
907-465-3882

### AGENDA

State Capitol 124  
8:00 am – 10:00 am

- **Call to Order**
  - Today's date is March 25, 2003
  - The time is 8 am
- **On today's agenda**
  - HB 189 Prohibit Tobacco Use Until Age 21  
Sponsor: Representative Crawford  
(If Rep Crawford is not available, his staff Carol Gionannini will present)
- **Public Testimony**
  - On teleconference
  - Anyone present in Juneau that wishes to testify?
- **Wishes of the committee**
  - Options:
    - Move the bill **with** the attached zero fiscal notes
    - Hold bill in committee for further review
- **Other Business**
  - If there is no other business, announce next meeting announce next meeting.
  - Next Meeting – Tuesday, March 18<sup>th</sup>  
Overview of the Denali Commission
- **Adjourn**

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Representative Harry Crawford  
District 21

**HB 189 - PROHIBIT TOBACCO USE UNTIL AGE 21**  
**SPONSOR STATEMENT**

Tobacco kills. Of approximately 16.6 million smokers in the U.S. alone, 5.3 million will die prematurely. Billions of dollars will be spent on tobacco-related health care (an average of \$12,000 per smoker), and nearly 64 million years of potential life -- from 12 to 21 years per smoker -- will be lost. Lung disease associated with smoking has become the third-highest cause of death.

Of those who smoke, 90 percent began smoking before the age of 21. On the other hand, among those over the age of 21 who take up smoking for the first time, more than 90 percent soon drop it completely.

Increasing the age for legal possession of tobacco to 21 will help discourage teen smoking. The resulting decrease in smokers will lower Alaska's health care costs and reduce the number of tobacco-related deaths.