



City of Taunton

Board of Health

45 School Street
Massachusetts 02780-3212

Regulation of the Taunton Board of Health Restricting the Sale of Tobacco Products

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A. Statement of Purpose:

Whereas there exists conclusive evidence that tobacco smoking causes cancer, respiratory and cardiac diseases, negative birth outcomes, irritations to the eyes, nose and throat¹;

Whereas the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services has concluded that nicotine is as addictive as cocaine or heroin² and the Surgeon General found that nicotine exposure during adolescence, a critical window for brain development, may have lasting adverse consequences for brain development,³ and that it is addiction to nicotine that keeps youth smoking past adolescence⁴;

Whereas a Federal District Court found that Phillip Morris, RJ Reynolds and other leading cigarette manufacturers “spent billions of dollars every year on their marketing activities in order to encourage young people to try and then continue purchasing their cigarette products in order to provide the replacement smokers they need to survive” and that these companies were likely to continue targeting underage smokers⁵;

Whereas more than 80 percent of all adult smokers begin smoking before the age of 18, more than 90 percent do so before leaving their teens, and more than 3.5 million middle and high school students smoke⁶;

Whereas 18.1 percent of current smokers aged <18 years reported that they *usually* directly purchased their cigarettes from stores (i.e. convenience store, supermarket, or discount store) or gas stations, and among 11th grade males this rate was nearly 30 percent⁷;

Whereas the Institute of Medicine (IOM) concludes that raising the minimum age of legal access to tobacco products to 21 will likely reduce tobacco initiation, particularly among adolescents 15 – 17, which would improve health across the lifespan and save lives⁸;

Whereas the Surgeon General found that exposure to tobacco marketing in stores and price discounting increase youth smoking⁹;

¹ Center for Disease Control and Prevention, (CDC) (2012), *Health Effects of Cigarette Smoking Fact Sheet*. Retrieved from: http://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/data_statistics/fact_sheets/health_effects/effects_cig_smoking/index.htm.

² CDC (2010), *How Tobacco Smoke Causes Disease: The Biology and Behavioral Basis for Smoking-Attributable Disease*. Retrieved from: http://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/data_statistics/sgr/2010/.

³ U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. 2014. *The Health Consequences of Smoking – 50 Years of Progress: A Report of the Surgeon General*. Atlanta: U.S. National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, Office on Smoking and Health, p. 122. Retrieved from: <http://www.surgeongeneral.gov/library/reports/50-years-of-progress/full-report.pdf>.

⁴ *Id.* at Executive Summary p. 13. Retrieved from: <http://www.surgeongeneral.gov/library/reports/50-years-of-progress/exec-summary.pdf>

⁵ *United States v. Phillip Morris, Inc., RJ Reynolds Tobacco Co., et al.*, 449 F.Supp.2d 1 (D.D.C. 2006) at Par. 3301 and Pp. 1605-07.

⁶ SAMHSA, Calculated based on data in 2011 National Survey on Drug Use and Health and U. S. Department of Health and Human services (HHA).

⁷ CDC (2013) Youth Risk Behavior, Surveillance Summaries (MMWR 2014; 63 (No SS-04)). Retrieved from: www.cdc.gov.

⁸ IOM (Institute of Medicine) 2015. *Public Health Implications of Raising the Minimum Age of Legal Access to Tobacco Products*. Washington DC: The National Academies Press, 2015.

Whereas 5.8% of Massachusetts youth currently use e-cigarettes and 15.9% have tried them¹⁰;

Whereas the sale of tobacco products is incompatible with the mission of health care institutions because these products are detrimental to the public health and their presence in health care institutions undermine efforts to educate patients on the safe and effective use of medication, including cessation medication;

Now, therefore it is the intention of the Taunton Board of Health to regulate the sale of tobacco products.

B. Authority:

This regulation is promulgated pursuant to the authority granted to the Taunton Board of Health by Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 111, Section 31 which states "Boards of health may make reasonable health regulations".

C. Definitions:

For the purpose of this regulation, the following words shall have the following meanings:

Adult-Only Retail Tobacco Store: An establishment that is not required to possess a retail food permit whose primary purpose is to sell or offer for sale but not for resale, tobacco products and tobacco paraphernalia, in which the sale of other products or offer of services is merely incidental, and in which the entry of persons under the minimum legal sales age is prohibited at all times, and which maintains a valid permit for the retail sale of tobacco products as required by the Taunton Board of Health.

Blunt Wrap: Any tobacco product manufactured or packaged as a wrap or as a hollow tube made wholly or in part from tobacco that is designed or intended to be filled by the consumer with loose tobacco or other fillers regardless of any content.

Business Agent: An individual who has been designated by the owner or operator of any establishment to be the manager or otherwise in charge of said establishment.

Coupon: Any card, paper, note, form, statement, ticket or other communication distributed for commercial or promotional purposes to be later surrendered by the bearer to receive an article, service or accommodation without charge or at a discount price.

Employee: Any individual who performs services for an employer.

Employer: Any individual, partnership, association, corporation, trust or other organized group of individuals that uses the services of one (1) or more employees.

⁹ U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. 2012. *Preventing Tobacco Use Among Youth and Young Adults: A Report of the Surgeon General*. Atlanta: U.S. National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, Office on Smoking and Health, p. 508-530, www.surgeongeneral.gov/library/reports/preventing-youth-tobacco-use/full-report.pdf.

¹⁰ Massachusetts Department of Public Health, 2015 Massachusetts Youth Health Survey (MYHS)

Health Care Institution: An individual, partnership, association, corporation or trust or any person or group of persons that provides health care services and employs health care providers licensed, or subject to licensing, by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health under M.G.L. c. 112 or a retail establishment that provides pharmaceutical goods and services and is subject to the provisions of 247 CMR 6.00. Health care institutions include, but are not limited to, hospitals, clinics, health centers, pharmacies, drug stores, doctor offices, optician/optometrist offices and dentist offices.

Minimum Legal Sales Age (MLSA): The age an individual must be before that individual can be sold a tobacco product in the municipality.

Permit Holder: Any person engaged in the sale or distribution of tobacco products who applies for and receives a tobacco product sales permit or any person who is required to apply for a Tobacco Product Sales Permit pursuant to these regulations, or his or her business agent.

Person: Any individual, firm, partnership, association, corporation, company or organization of any kind, including but not limited to, an owner, operator, manager, proprietor or person in charge of any establishment, business or retail store.

Self-Service Display: Any display from which customers may select a tobacco product, as defined herein, without assistance from an employee or store personnel.

Schools: Public or private elementary or secondary schools.

Tobacco Product: Any product containing, made, or derived from tobacco or nicotine that is intended for human consumption, whether smoked, chewed, absorbed, dissolved, inhaled, snorted, sniffed, or ingested by any other means, including, but not limited to: cigarettes, cigars, little cigars, chewing tobacco, pipe tobacco, snuff; or electronic cigarettes, electronic cigars, electronic pipes, electronic hookah, liquid nicotine, "e-liquids" or other similar products, regardless of nicotine content, that rely on vaporization or aerosolization. "Tobacco Product" includes any component or part of a tobacco product. "Tobacco Product" does not include any product that has been approved by the United States Food and Drug Administration either as a tobacco use cessation product or for other medical purposes and which is being marketed and sold or prescribed solely for the approved purpose.

Vending Machine: Any automated or mechanical self-service device, which upon insertion of money, tokens or any other form of payment, dispenses or makes cigarettes or any other tobacco products, as defined herein.

D. Tobacco Sales to Persons Under the Minimum Legal Sales Age Prohibited:

1. No person shall sell or provide a tobacco product, as defined herein, to a person under the minimum legal sales age. The minimum legal sales age in Taunton is 21.

2. Required Signage:

- a. In conformance with and in addition to Massachusetts General Law, Chapter 270, Section 7, a copy of Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 270, Section 6, shall be posted conspicuously by the owner or other person in charge thereof in the shop or other place used to sell tobacco products at retail. The notice shall be provided by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health and made available from the Taunton Board of Health. The notice shall be at least 48 square inches and shall be posted conspicuously by the permit holder in the retail establishment or other place in such a manner so that it may be readily seen by a person standing at or approaching the cash register. The notice shall directly face the purchaser and shall not be obstructed from view or placed at a height of less than 4 feet or greater than 9 feet from the floor. The owner or other person in charge of a shop or other place used to sell tobacco products at retail shall conspicuously post any additional signs required by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health. The owner or other person in charge of a shop or other place used to sell hand rolled cigars must display a warning about cigar consumption in a sign at least 50 square inches pursuant to 940 CMR 22.05 (2) (e).
 - b. The owner or other person in charge of a shop or other place used to sell tobacco products, as defined herein, at retail shall conspicuously post signage provided by the Taunton Board of Health that discloses current referral information about smoking cessation.
 - c. The owner or other person in charge of a shop or other place used to sell tobacco products that rely on vaporization or aerosolization, as defined herein as "Tobacco Products", at retail shall conspicuously post a sign stating that "The sale of tobacco products, including e-cigarettes, to someone under the minimum legal sales age of 21 years is prohibited." The notice shall be no smaller than 8.5 inches by 11 inches and shall be posted conspicuously in the retail establishment or other place in such a manner so that it may be readily seen by a person standing at or approaching the cash register. The notice shall directly face the purchaser and shall not be obstructed from view or placed at a height of less than four (4) feet or greater than nine (9) feet from the floor. The owner or other person in charge of a shop or other place used to sell e-cigarettes shall conspicuously place a sign stating, **"The use of e-cigarettes anywhere where smoking is prohibited in Taunton is also prohibited in Taunton."**
3. Identification: Each person selling or distributing tobacco products, as defined herein, shall verify the age of the purchaser by means of a valid government-issued photographic identification containing the bearer's date of birth that the purchaser is 21 years old or older. Verification is required for any person under the age of 27.
 4. All retail sales of tobacco products, as defined herein, must be face-to-face between the seller and the buyer and occur at the permitted location.

E. Tobacco Product Sales Permit:

1. No person shall sell or otherwise distribute tobacco products, as defined herein, within the City of Taunton without first obtaining a Tobacco Product Sales Permit issued annually by the Taunton Board of Health. Only owners of establishments with a permanent, non-mobile location in Taunton are eligible to apply for a permit and sell tobacco products, as defined herein, at the specified location in Taunton.

2. As part of the Tobacco Product Sales Permit application process, the applicant will be provided with the Taunton regulation. Each applicant is required to sign a statement declaring that the applicant has read said regulation and that the applicant is responsible for instructing all employees who will be responsible for tobacco product sales regarding federal, state and local laws about the sale of tobacco and this regulation.
3. Each applicant who sells tobacco products is required to provide proof of a current Tobacco Retailer License issued by the Massachusetts Department of Revenue, when required by state law, before a Tobacco Product Sales Permit can be issued. Applicant may be asked to provide evidence that a legitimate business transfer or business purchase has taken place.
4. A separate permit, displayed conspicuously, is required for each retail establishment selling tobacco products, as defined herein. The fee shall be determined by the Taunton Board of Health annually.
5. A Tobacco Product Sales Permit is non-transferable. A new owner of an establishment that sells tobacco products, as defined herein, must apply for a new permit. No new permit will be issued unless and until all outstanding penalties incurred by the previous permit holder are satisfied in full.
6. Issuance of a Tobacco Product Sales Permit shall be conditioned on an applicant's consent to unannounced, periodic inspections of his/her retail establishment to ensure compliance with this regulation.
7. A Tobacco Product Sales Permit will not be renewed if the permit holder has failed to pay all fines issued and the time period to appeal the fines has expired and/or the permit holder has not satisfied any outstanding permit suspensions.

F. Prohibition of the Sale of Blunt Wraps:

No person or entity shall sell or distribute blunt wraps in Taunton.

G. Free Distribution and Coupon Redemption:

No person shall:

1. Distribute or cause to be distributed, any free samples of tobacco products, as defined herein;
2. Accept or redeem, offer to accept or redeem, or cause or hire any person to accept or redeem or offer to accept or redeem any coupon that provides any tobacco product, as defined herein, without charge or for less than the listed or non-discounted price; or
3. Sell a tobacco product, as defined herein, to consumers through any multi-pack discounts (e.g., "buy-two-get-one-free") or otherwise provide or distribute to consumers any tobacco product, as defined herein, without charge or for less than the listed or non-discounted price in exchange for the purchase of any other tobacco product.

H. Out-of-Package Sales:

1. The sale or distribution of tobacco products, as defined herein, in any form other than an original factory-wrapped package is prohibited, including the repackaging or dispensing of any tobacco product, as defined herein, for retail sale. No person may sell or cause to be sold or distribute or cause to be distributed any cigarette package that contains fewer than twenty (20) cigarettes, including single cigarettes.
2. Permit holders who sell Liquid Nicotine Containers must comply with the provisions of 310 CMR 30.000 and must provide the Taunton Board of Health with a written plan for disposal of said product, including disposal plans for any breakage, spillage or expiration of the product.
3. All permit holders must comply with 940 CMR 21.05 which reads: "It shall be an unfair or deceptive act or practice for any person to sell or distribute nicotine in a liquid or gel substance in Massachusetts after March 15, 2016 unless the liquid or gel product is contained in a child-resistant package that, at a minimum, meets the standard for special packaging as set forth in 15 U.S. C. §§1471 through 1476 and 16 CFR §1700 et. Seq."
4. No permit holder shall refill a cartridge that is prefilled and sealed by the manufacturer and not intended to be opened by the consumer or retailer.

I. Self-Service Displays:

All self-service displays of tobacco products, as defined herein, are prohibited. All humidors including, but not limited to, walk-in humidors must be locked.

J. Vending Machines:

All vending machines containing tobacco products, as defined herein, are prohibited.

K. Prohibition of the Sale of Tobacco Products by Health Care Institutions:

No health care institution located in Taunton shall sell or cause to be sold tobacco products, as defined herein. No retail establishment that operates or has a health care institution within it, such as a pharmacy, optician/optometrist or drug store, shall sell or cause to be sold tobacco products, as defined herein.

L. Incorporation of State Laws and State Regulations:

- a) The sale or distribution of tobacco products, as defined herein, must comply with those provisions found at M.G.L. Ch. 270, §§6, 6A, 7 and M.G.L. Ch. 112, §61A.
- b) The sale or distribution of tobacco products, as defined herein, must comply with those provisions found at 940 CMR 21.00 ("Sale and Distribution of Cigarettes, Smokeless Tobacco Products, and Electronic

Smoking Devices in Massachusetts”) and 940 CMR 22.00 (“Sale and Distribution of Cigars in Massachusetts”).

M. Use of E-Cigarettes:

The use of e-cigarettes is hereby prohibited in Taunton in locations and establishments covered by M.G.L. Ch. 270, Sec. 22 (commonly known as the “Smoke-Free Workplace Law”) and in additional locations and establishments covered by any regulation or ordinance pertaining to the use of tobacco products in Taunton.

N. Violations:

1. It shall be the responsibility of the establishment, permit holder and/or his or her business agent to ensure compliance with all sections of this regulation pertaining to the distribution tobacco products. The violator shall receive:
 - a. In the case of a first violation, a fine of one hundred dollars (\$100.00).
 - b. In the case of a second violation within 24 months of the date of the current violation, a fine of two hundred dollars (\$200.00) and the Tobacco Product Sales Permit may be suspended for seven (7) consecutive business days.
 - c. In the case of three or more violations within a 24-month period, a fine of three hundred dollars (\$300.00) and the Tobacco Product Sales Permit may be suspended for thirty (30) consecutive business days.
 - d. In the case of four violations within a 24-month period, a fine of the four hundred dollars (\$400.00) and the Tobacco Sales Permit may be suspended for up to sixty (60) consecutive business days.
 - e. In the case of five or more violations within a 24-month period, a fine of five hundred dollars (\$500.00) and the Tobacco Sales Permit may be suspended for up to ninety (90) consecutive business days.
2. Failure to cooperate with inspections pursuant to this regulation shall result in the suspension of the Tobacco Product Sales Permit for thirty (30) consecutive business days.
3. In addition to the monetary fines set above, any permit holder who engages in the sale or distribution of tobacco products while his or her permit is suspended shall be subject to the suspension of all Board of Health issued permits for thirty (30) consecutive business days. Multiple tobacco product sales permit suspensions shall not be served concurrently.
 - a. The Taunton Board of Health shall provide notice of the intent to suspend or revoke a Tobacco Product Sales Permit, which notice shall contain the reasons therefor and establish a time and date for a hearing which date shall be no earlier than seven (7) days after the date of said notice. The permit holder or its

business agent shall have an opportunity to be heard at such hearing and shall be notified of the Board of Health's decision and the reasons therefor in writing. After a hearing, the Taunton Board of Health may suspend or revoke the Tobacco Product Sales Permit if the Board of Health finds that a violation of this regulation occurred. All tobacco products, as defined herein, shall be removed from the retail establishment upon suspension or revocation of the Tobacco Product Sales Permit. Failure to remove all tobacco products, as defined herein, shall constitute a separate violation of this regulation.

O. Violation of Section M:

It shall be the responsibility of the owner, manager, or other person in control of a building or vehicle to ensure compliance with Section M of this regulation pertaining to the use of e-cigarettes. The violator shall receive a fine of:

- a. One hundred dollars (\$100.00) for the first violation;
- b. Two hundred dollars (\$200.00) for the second violation occurring within 24 months of the first violation.
- c. Three hundred dollars (\$300.00) for the third or subsequent violation within a 24-month period.

P. Non-Criminal Disposition:

Whoever violates any provision of this regulation may be penalized by the non-criminal method of disposition as provided in Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 40, Section 21D where the specific fine for the violation is not more than \$300, by a Health Order if the fine is more than \$300, or by filing a criminal complaint at the appropriate venue.

Q. Separate Violations:

Each day any violation exists shall be deemed to be a separate offense.

R. Enforcement:

Enforcement of this regulation shall be by the Taunton Board of Health or its designated agent(s). Any resident who desires to register a complaint pursuant to the regulation may do so by contacting the Taunton Board of Health or its designated agent(s) and the Board shall investigate.

S. Severability:

If any provision of this regulation is declared invalid or unenforceable, the other provisions shall not be affected thereby but shall continue in full force and effect.

T. Effective Date:

This regulation shall take effect on December 30, 2018.

Bodner MD BRUCE BODNER MD

Thaddeus A. Frylock MD THADDEUS A. FRYLOCK MD

Charles Shayer Charles A. Thayer MD

A true copy.
Attest: Dee Marie Blackwell
City Clerk