



City of New Haven

Signature Copy

Ordinance: OR-2025-0003

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File Number: OR-2025-0003

ORDINANCE AMENDMENT OF THE NEW HAVEN BOARD OF ALDERS TO THE
NEW HAVEN CODE OF ORDINANCES AMENDING CHAPTER 17 BY ADDING
ARTICLE XIX TO ESTABLISH TOBACCO AND SMOKING PRODUCTS RETAIL
LICENSE REQUIREMENTS; UPDATING LICENSING FEES IN ARTICLE XX. - FEES
AND CHARGES, AS APPLICABLE TO THESE RETAILERS; AND UPDATING
CHAPTER 16, ARTICLE VI REGARDING THE PROHIBITION OF TOBACCO,
SMOKING, VAPOR, AND NICOTINE PRODUCTS.

Whereas, it is the public policy of the city to reduce the exposure of children to the marketing of tobacco, nicotine, and smoking products in order to promote their health, safety, and welfare;

Whereas, the city finds the use of these products have prevalent, material, and predictable harmful impacts on the health of individuals and pose a significant threat to the public health of its inhabitants;

Whereas, thousands of users of tobacco and smoking products and other individuals exposed to second-hand smoke die or are stricken with illnesses every year that are attributed to tobacco and smoking products use;

Whereas, tobacco and smoking products advertising, whether intended to promote tobacco, smoking, vaping, and nicotine products use or only to compete for market share, has the consequence of promoting tobacco, smoking, vaping, and nicotine products use;

Whereas, tobacco, smoking, vaping, and nicotine products advertising helps significantly entice children and youth to initiate tobacco, smoking, vaping, and nicotine products use;

Whereas, children and youth are more receptive than adults to the clever images and messages contained in tobacco, smoking, vaping, and nicotine products advertising and are likely to purchase the most heavily-advertised brands;

Whereas, exposure to tobacco, smoking, vaping, and nicotine products marketing, adult and peer usage are the greatest risk factors for teenage children and youth that decide to use these products;

Whereas, of these, exposure to marketing is the greatest risk factor;

Whereas, the prohibition on sales to children and youth is useful but is insufficient alone to discourage tobacco, smoking, vaping, and nicotine products use among children and youth;

Whereas, the city believes that additional measures must be taken to reduce the exposure of children and youth to tobacco, smoking, vaping, and nicotine products advertising;

Whereas, pursuant to the statutes of the State of Connecticut, the city has the power to regulate and prohibit any trade or business, which is or may become prejudicial to public health, and may make lawful regulations and chapters in furtherance of public health;

Whereas, to encourage the protection of the public health, the city seeks to reduce the exposure of children and youth to tobacco, smoking, vaping, and nicotine products sales, marketing, and use by taking measures that include:

1. Prohibiting certain outdoor advertising in public places and certain indoor advertising of tobacco, smoking, vaping, and nicotine products in places likely to be frequented by children and youth;
2. Prohibiting the marketing of tobacco, smoking, vaping, and nicotine products in proximity to schools, parks, and other locations frequented by children and youth;
3. Prohibiting certain tobacco, smoking, vaping, and nicotine products marketing methods that are aimed at children and youth that are likely to induce or encourage the use of these products among children and youth;
4. Creating a permit system with penalties as a means of enforcing the requirements of this article on those who sell tobacco, smoking, vaping, and nicotine products; and
5. Prohibiting the use of tobacco, smoking, vaping, and nicotine products at all schools located within the city.

Whereas, it is the public policy of the city to reduce the access by youth to tobacco, smoking, vaping, and nicotine products to promote the health, safety, and welfare of New Haven's youth;

Whereas, raising the minimum legal sale and distribution age for all tobacco, smoking, vaping, and nicotine products to twenty-one (21) years old reduces access to these products by youth, as teens often acquire such products from social networks, including older friends, as the vast majority of those providing tobacco, smoking, vaping, and nicotine products for youth aged seventeen (17) years old and under are themselves between eighteen (18) and twenty (20) years old and are able to purchase legally;

Whereas, select findings from the 2023 Connecticut School Health Survey (CSHS) reflect the current use of tobacco and smoking products is reported at 11.5 percent among Connecticut high school students, with usage rising to 15.8 percent for 12th graders;

Whereas, thirty-five percent (35%) of high school students reported they had been exposed to smoke or vapor from someone else who was smoking or vaping;

Whereas, the CSHS survey shows the vast majority of youth (92% of vaping users) are using flavored vaping devices;

Whereas, the Institute of Medicine predicted in a 2015 report that raising the minimum legal sales age for tobacco and smoking products to twenty-one (21) nationwide will have a substantial positive impact on public health and provide long-term declines in smoking rates by reducing tobacco and smoking products initiation among youth aged fifteen-to-seventeen (15-17) by twenty-five percent (25%) and overall prevalence of tobacco and smoking products use by twelve percent (12%);

Whereas, the city believes that additional measures must be taken to reduce youth access to all tobacco, smoking, vaping, and nicotine products;

Whereas, pursuant to the statutes of the State of Connecticut, the city has the power to regulate and prohibit any trade or business which is or may become harmful to public health and may make lawful regulations and chapters in furtherance of public health;

Whereas, to encourage the protection of public health, the city seeks to prevent and reduce youth access to tobacco, smoking, vaping, and nicotine products by taking measures that include:


1. Prohibiting the sale of all tobacco, smoking, vaping, and nicotine products to persons under the age of twenty-one (21) years old;
2. Requiring tobacco, smoking, vaping, and nicotine products retailers to verify age by examining valid identification;
3. Requiring tobacco, smoking, vaping, and nicotine products retailers to display signage that informs people that "The sale of tobacco, nicotine, and smoking products to persons under twenty-one (21) years old is prohibited;" and
4. Using the tobacco, smoking, vaping, and nicotine products permit system as a means of enforcing the requirements of this article; and

Whereas, the licensing requirements for tobacco, smoking, vaping, and nicotine products retailers shall take effect on September 1, 2025, to give retailers time to comply.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY ORDAINED by the New Haven Board of Alders that the following chapters of New Haven's Code of Ordinances be amended: Chapter 17 by adding Article XIX, "Tobacco, Nicotine, Vapor, and Smoking Products Retail License;" Chapter 17, Article XX - Fees and Charges, as applicable to these retailers; and Chapter 16, Article VI regarding the prohibition of tobacco, smoking, vapor, and nicotine products as incorporated herein by reference.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED by the New Haven Board of Alders that the mayor is hereby authorized and empowered to execute, acknowledge, and deliver all documents as may be needed or appropriate to implement and effect the intent and purposes set forth in this Order.

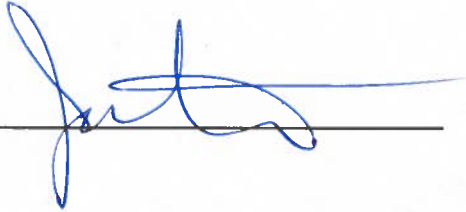
This Ordinance was Adopted As Amended by the Board of Alders on 3/17/2025.

Attest, City Clerk 

Date 3/3/2025

Signed, City Clerk 

Date 3/28/2025

Signed, Mayor 

Date 4/1/2025