**South Carolina General Assembly**

125th Session, 2023-2024

**A38, R46, H3681**

**STATUS INFORMATION**

General Bill

Sponsors: Reps. West, Long, Rutherford, Bannister, Bradley, Chumley, Hiott, Hixon, Atkinson and Kilmartin

Companion/Similar bill(s): 414, 3483

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Introduced in the House on January 12, 2023

Introduced in the Senate on April 6, 2023

Last Amended on May 3, 2023

Currently residing in the House

Governor's Action: May 16, 2023, Signed

Summary: Omnibus Tobacco Enforcement Act of 2023

**HISTORY OF LEGISLATIVE ACTIONS**

Date Body Action Description with journal page number

1/12/2023 House Introduced and read first time ([House Journal‑page 335](h:\hj\20230112.docx))

1/12/2023 House Referred to Committee on **Medical, Military, Public and Municipal Affairs** ([House Journal‑page 335](h:\hj\20230112.docx))

3/30/2023 House Committee report: Favorable **Medical, Military, Public and Municipal Affairs** ([House Journal‑page 15](h:\hj\20230330.docx))

4/3/2023 Scrivener's error corrected

4/5/2023 House Member(s) request name added as sponsor:
Atkinson, Kilmartin

4/5/2023 House Read second time ([House Journal‑page 212](h:\hj\20230405.docx))

4/5/2023 House Roll call Yeas-90 Nays-2 ([House Journal‑page 212](h:\hj\20230405.docx))

4/6/2023 House Read third time and sent to Senate ([House Journal‑page 30](h:\hj\20230406.docx))

4/6/2023 House Roll call Yeas-98 Nays-4 ([House Journal‑page 31](h:\hj\20230406.docx))

4/6/2023 Senate Introduced and read first time ([Senate Journal‑page 36](h:\sj\20230406.docx))

4/6/2023 Senate Referred to Committee on **Medical Affairs** ([Senate Journal‑page 36](h:\sj\20230406.docx))

4/27/2023 Senate Polled out of committee **Medical Affairs** ([Senate Journal‑page 8](h:\sj\20230427.docx))

4/27/2023 Senate Committee report: Favorable **Medical Affairs** ([Senate Journal‑page 8](h:\sj\20230427.docx))

5/2/2023 Senate Debate adjourned ([Senate Journal‑page 34](h:\sj\20230502.docx))

5/2/2023 Senate Roll call Ayes-32 Nays-9 ([Senate Journal‑page 34](h:\sj\20230502.docx))

5/3/2023 Senate Amended ([Senate Journal‑page 183](h:\sj\20230503.docx))

5/3/2023 Senate Read second time ([Senate Journal‑page 183](h:\sj\20230503.docx))

5/3/2023 Senate Roll call Ayes-26 Nays-16 ([Senate Journal‑page 183](h:\sj\20230503.docx))

5/4/2023 Senate Read third time and returned to House with amendments ([Senate Journal‑page 47](h:\sj\20230504.docx))

5/4/2023 Scrivener's error corrected

5/10/2023 House Concurred in Senate amendment and enrolled ([House Journal‑page 32](h:\hj\20230510.docx))

5/10/2023 House Roll call Yeas-95 Nays-5 ([House Journal‑page 33](h:\hj\20230510.docx))

5/11/2023 Ratified R 46

5/16/2023 Signed By Governor

5/25/2023 Effective date See Act for Effective Date

5/25/2023 Act No. 38

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[03/30/2023](https://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess125_2023-2024/prever/3681_20230330.docx)

[04/03/2023](https://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess125_2023-2024/prever/3681_20230403.docx)

[04/27/2023](https://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess125_2023-2024/prever/3681_20230427.docx)

[05/03/2023](https://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess125_2023-2024/prever/3681_20230503.docx)

[05/04/2023](https://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess125_2023-2024/prever/3681_20230504.docx)

5/11/2023 Ratified R 46 ([Senate Journal‑page 139](file:///h:\sj\20230511.docx))

5/16/2023 Signed By Governor

5/25/2023 Effective date See Act for Effective Date

5/25/2023 Act No. 38

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(A38, R46, H3681)

AN ACT to amend the South Carolina Code of Laws by adding Section 44‑95‑45 so as to PROVIDE THAT POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS OF THIS STATE MAY NOT ENACT ANY LAWS, ORDINANCES, OR RULES PERTAINING TO INGREDIENTS, FLAVORS, OR LICENSING OF CIGARETTES, ELECTRONIC SMOKING DEVICES, E‑LIQUID, VAPOR PRODUCTS, or TOBACCO PRODUCTS AND TO PROVIDE THAT SUCH LAWS, ORDINANCES, AND RULES ENACTED BY A POLITICAL SUBDIVISION PRIOR TO december 31, 2020, ARE NOT SUBJECT TO THE PREEMPTION IMPOSED BY THIS ACT; BY AMENDING SECTIONS 16-17-500, 16-17-501, 16-17-502, 16‑17‑503, 16‑17‑504, AND 16-17-506, RELATING TO THE PREVENTION OF YOUTH ACCESS TO TOBACCO AND OTHER NICOTINE PRODUCTS, SO AS TO CHANGE THE DEFINITION OF “TOBACCO PRODUCT” AND ADD DEFINITIONS FOR “TOBACCO RETAIL ESTABLISHMENT” AND “TOBACCO RETAILER”; TO PROHIBIT MINORS FROM ENTERING A TOBACCO RETAIL ESTABLISHMENT; TO CHANGE CERTAIN PENALTIES FOR TOBACCO RETAILER VIOLATIONS; TO REQUIRE TOBACCO RETAILERS TO SECURE AND DISPLAY A TOBACCO RETAIL SALES LICENSE FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE AND TO ESTABLISH AN ASSOCIATED FEE AND PENALTY FOR VIOLATIONs; TO MAKE TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES; BY AMENDING SECTION 59‑1‑380, RELATING TO THE MANDATORY PUBLIC SCHOOL TOBACCO-FREE CAMPUS POLICY, SO AS TO MAKE CONFORMING CHANGES; and by adding section 12-36-511 so as to require retailers to provide the department of revenue certain tobacco‑related information in their retail license applications.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of South Carolina:

Citation

SECTION 1. This act may be cited as the “Omnibus Tobacco Enforcement Act of 2023”.

Preemption

SECTION 2. Chapter 95, Title 44 of the S.C. Code is amended by adding:

Section 44‑95‑45.(A) Political subdivisions of this State may not enact any laws, ordinances, or rules pertaining to ingredients, flavors, or licensing, beyond a general business license, related to the sale of the following products:

(1) cigarettes, as defined in Section 12‑21‑620;

(2) electronic smoking devices, e‑liquid, vapor products, or tobacco products, each as defined in Section 16‑17‑501; or

(3) any other product containing nicotine that can be ingested into the body by chewing, smoking, absorbing, dissolving, inhaling, or by any means.

(B) Nothing in this section shall be construed to interfere with a political subdivision's authority to determine its own public-use policies relating to any of the products referenced in this section.

Preemption exemptions

SECTION 3. Laws, ordinances, or rules enacted by political subdivisions of this State prior to December 31, 2020, pertaining to ingredients, flavors, or licensing, related to the sale of cigarettes, electronic smoking devices, e‑liquid, vapor products, tobacco products, or any other products containing nicotine that can be ingested into the body by chewing, smoking, absorbing, dissolving, inhaling, or by any means, and municipal code amendments to said laws, ordinances, or rules, are exempt from the preemption imposed by this act. Nothing in this act shall be construed to interfere with a political subdivision's authority to determine its own public-use policies relating to any of the products referenced in this act.

Land use regulation, local authority

SECTION 4. Nothing in this act shall be construed to interfere with a political subdivision's authority under Chapter 29, Title 6, including, without limitation, with respect to land use regulation, land development regulation, zoning, or permitting.

Tobacco product sale prohibitions, minors

SECTION 5. Section 16-17-500 of the S.C. Code is amended to read:

Section 16-17-500. (A) It is unlawful for an individual to sell, furnish, give, distribute, purchase for, or provide a tobacco product to a minor under the age of eighteen years.

(B) It is unlawful to sell a tobacco product to an individual without a demand of proper proof of age. Failure to demand identification to verify an individual's age is not a defense to an action initiated pursuant to this subsection. Proof that is demanded, is shown, and reasonably is relied upon for the individual's proof of age is a defense to an action initiated pursuant to this subsection.

(C) A person engaged in the sale of tobacco products made through the Internet or other remote sales methods shall perform an age verification through an independent, third-party age verification service that compares information available from public records to the personal information entered by the individual during the ordering process that establishes the individual is eighteen years of age or older and shall use a method of mailing, shipping, or delivery that requires the signature of a person at least eighteen years of age before a tobacco product will be released to the purchaser, unless the Internet or other remote sales methods employ the following protections to ensure age verification:

(1) the customer creates an online profile or account with personal information including, but not limited to, name, address, social security information, and a valid phone number, and that personal information is verified through publicly available records; or

(2) the customer is required to upload a copy of his government-issued identification in addition to a current photograph of the customer; and

(3) delivery is made to the customer's name and address.

(D) It is unlawful to sell a tobacco product through a vending machine.

(E)(1) An individual who knowingly violates a provision of subsections (A), (B), (C), (D), or (J) in person, by agent, or in any other way is guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction, must be:

(a) for a first offense, fined not less than two hundred dollars and not more than three hundred dollars;

(b) for a second and subsequent offense, fined not less than four hundred dollars and not more than five hundred dollars, imprisoned for not more than thirty days, or both.

(2) In lieu of the fine, the court may require an individual, at the expense of the tobacco retailer or tobacco retail establishment, to successfully complete a Department of Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Services-approved merchant tobacco enforcement education program.

(3) A tobacco retailer who knowingly violates or permits an employee to violate a provision of subsections (A), (B), (C), (D), or (J) in the tobacco retail establishment is subject to an administrative penalty as follows:

(a) for a first violation, issued a warning;

(b) for a second violation within a thirty-six-month period, fined not less than three hundred dollars;

(c) for a third violation within a thirty-six-month period, fined not less than six hundred dollars;

(d) for a fourth and subsequent violation within a thirty-six­-month period, fined not less than one thousand two hundred dollars and the tobacco retailer is prohibited from selling or distributing tobacco products for a period of at least seven days and no greater than thirty days. For purposes of this subsection, a tobacco retailer that knowingly sells or distributes during the period that the tobacco retailer is prohibited from selling or distributing is subject to a fine of not more than two hundred dollars and is prohibited from selling or distributing tobacco products for an additional period of seven days; and

(e) A tobacco retailer or tobacco retail establishment may request a contested case hearing for the fine or for the prohibition from selling or distributing tobacco products in front of the South Carolina Administrative Law Court, pursuant to the South Carolina Administrative Procedures Act, Section 1‑23‑310 et, seq.

(4) In lieu of the fine and prohibition from selling or distributing tobacco products, the court may require the tobacco retailer or tobacco retail establishment’s employees, at the expense of the tobacco retailer or tobacco retail establishment, to successfully complete a Department of Alcohol and Other Drug Services-approved merchant tobacco enforcement education program.

(5) Failure to require identification for the purpose of verifying a person's age is prima facie evidence of a violation of this section.

(6) Local law enforcement and the State Law Enforcement Division may enforce subsections (A), (B), (C), (D), (E), or (J). The Department of Revenue must administer the provisions of subsection (E)(3) and the State Law Enforcement Division may enforce subsection (E)(3).

(7) A violation of subsection (A), (B), (C), (D), or (J) is prima facie evidence of a violation of subsection (E)(3). The Department of Revenue is authorized to present evidence of a violation of subsection (A), (B), (C), (D), or (J) to establish the violation of subsection (E)(3). Evidence of compliance with a merchant tobacco enforcement education program is an affirmative defense to subsection (E)(3)(a) and (b).

(F)(1)(a) A minor under the age of eighteen years must not present or offer proof of age that is false or fraudulent for the purpose of purchasing or possessing these products.

(b) A minor under the age of eighteen years is prohibited from entering a tobacco retail establishment that has as its primary purpose the sale of tobacco products, unless the minor is actively supervised and accompanied by an adult.

(c) The provisions of this subsection do not apply to a minor under the age of eighteen who is recruited and authorized by a law enforcement agency to test an establishment's compliance with laws relating to the unlawful transfer of tobacco products. The testing must be conducted under the direct supervision of a law enforcement agency, and the law enforcement agency must have the consent of a parent or legal guardian of the minor.

(2) A minor who knowingly misrepresents his age to purchase or attempt to purchase a tobacco product commits a noncriminal offense and is subject to a civil fine of twenty-five dollars.

(3) In lieu of the civil fine, the court may require a minor to successfully complete a Department of Health and Environmental Control-approved smoking cessation or tobacco prevention program, a South Carolina Department of Alcohol and other Drug Abuse Services tobacco prevention program, or to perform not more than five hours of community service for a charitable institution.

(4) A violation of this subsection is not a criminal or delinquent offense and no criminal or delinquent record may be maintained. A minor may not be taken into custody, arrested, placed in jail or in any other secure facility, committed to the custody of the Department of Juvenile Justice, or found to be in contempt of court for a violation of this subsection or for the failure to pay a fine, successfully complete a smoking cessation or tobacco prevention program, or perform community service.

(5) A violation of this subsection is not grounds for denying, suspending, or revoking an individual's participation in a state college or university financial assistance program including, but not limited to, a Life Scholarship, a Palmetto Fellows Scholarship, or a need-based grant.

(6) The uniform traffic ticket, established pursuant to Section 56-7-10, may be used by law enforcement officers for a violation of this subsection, including civil penalties and warnings. A violation of subsection (F) does not constitute a criminal offense. A law enforcement officer issuing a uniform traffic ticket pursuant to this subsection must immediately seize the tobacco product.

(G) This section does not apply to the possession of a tobacco product by a minor working within the course and scope of his duties as an employee or participating within the course and scope of an authorized inspection or compliance check.

(H) Jurisdiction to hear a violation of this section is vested exclusively in the municipal court and the magistrates court. A hearing pursuant to subsection (F) must be placed on the municipal or magistrates court's appropriate docket for traffic violations, and not on the court's docket for civil matters. For the purposes of contesting a tobacco retailer being fined or prohibited from selling or distributing tobacco products under subsection (E)(3), the jurisdiction is vested in the South Carolina Administrative Law Court.

(I) A retail establishment must train all tobacco retail sales employees regarding the unlawful distribution of tobacco products to minors.

(J)(1) A tobacco retail establishment that has as its primary purpose the sale of tobacco products must prohibit minors under the age of eighteen years from entering the tobacco retail establishment, unless the minor is actively supervised and accompanied by an adult, and shall determine whether a person is at least eighteen years of age by requiring proper proof of age in accordance with subsection (B), prior to the sale of a tobacco product.

(2) A tobacco retail establishment described in item (1) must conspicuously post on all entrances to the establishment the following:

(a) a sign in boldface type that states “NOTICE: It is unlawful for a person under eighteen years of age to enter this store, unless the minor is actively supervised and accompanied by an adult. Age will be verified prior to sale.”;

(b) a sign printed in letters and numbers at least one-half inch high that displays a toll free number for assistance to callers in quitting smoking, as determined by the Department of Health and Environmental Control.

(3) For purposes of this section, whether a tobacco retail establishment has as its primary purpose the sale of tobacco products must be based on the totality of the circumstances. Facts that must be considered, but not be limited to, are the tobacco retail establishment's business filings, business name and signage, marketing and other advertisements, and the percentage of revenue and inventory directly related to the sale of tobacco products.

(K) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a violation of this section does not violate the terms and conditions of an establishment's beer and wine permit and is not grounds for revocation or suspension of a beer and wine permit.

Definitions

SECTION 6. Section 16-17-501 of the S.C. Code is amended to read:

Section 16-17-501. As used in this section and Sections 16-17-500, 16-17-502, 16-17-503, 16‑17‑504, and 16-17-506:

(1) “Distribute” means to sell, furnish, give, provide, or attempt to do so, whether gratuitously or for any type of compensation, tobacco products, including tobacco product samples, cigarette paper, or a substitute for them, to the ultimate consumer.

(2) “Distribution” means the act of selling, furnishing, giving, providing, or attempting to do so, whether gratuitously or for any type of compensation, tobacco products, including tobacco product samples, cigarette paper, or a substitute for them, to the ultimate consumer.

(3) “Electronic smoking device” means any device that may be used to deliver any aerosolized or vaporized substance, including e-liquid, to the person inhaling from the device including, but not limited to, an e-cigarette, e-cigar, e-pipe, vape pen, or e-hookah. “Electronic smoking device” includes any component, part, or accessory of the device, and also includes any substance intended to be aerosolized or vaporized during the use of the device whether or not the substance includes nicotine. “Electronic smoking device” does not include drugs, devices, or combination products authorized for sale by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, as those terms are defined in the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act.

(4) “E-liquid” means a substance that:

(a) may or may not contain nicotine;

(b) is intended to be vaporized and inhaled using an electronic smoking device; and

(c) is a legal substance under the laws of this State and the laws of the United States.

“E-liquid” does not include cannabis or CBD as defined under the laws of this State and the laws of the United States unless it also contains nicotine.

(5) “Proof of age” means a driver's license or identification card issued by this State or any other state or a United States Armed Services identification card.

(6) “Sample” means a tobacco product distributed to members of the general public at no cost for the purpose of promoting the products.

(7) “Sampling” means the distribution of samples to members of the general public in a public place.

(8) “Tobacco product” means:

(a) any product containing, made of, or derived from tobacco or nicotine that is intended for human consumption or is likely to be consumed, whether inhaled, absorbed, or ingested by any other means including, but not limited to, a cigarette, a cigar, pipe tobacco, chewing tobacco, snuff, or snus;

(b) any electronic smoking device as defined in this section and any substances that may be aerosolized or vaporized by such device, whether or not the substance contains nicotine; or

(c) any component, part, or accessory of subitem (a) or subitem (b), whether or not any of these contains tobacco or nicotine including, but not limited to, filters, rolling papers, blunt or hemp wraps, and pipes. Tobacco product does not include drugs, devices, or combination products authorized for sale by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, as those terms are defined in the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act.

(9) “Tobacco retail establishment” means any place of business where tobacco products are available for sale to the general public. The term includes, but is not limited to, grocery stores, tobacco product shops, kiosks, convenience stores, gasoline service stations, bars, and restaurants.

(10) “Tobacco retailer” means any person, partnership, joint venture, society, club, trustee, trust association, organization, or corporation who owns, operates, or manages any tobacco retail establishment. Tobacco retailer does not mean the nonmanagement employees of any tobacco retail establishment.

Tobacco product samples

SECTION 7. Section 16-17-502 of the S.C. Code is amended to read:

Section 16-17-502. (A) It is unlawful for a person to distribute a tobacco product sample to a person under the age of eighteen years.

(B) A person engaged in sampling shall demand proof of age from a prospective recipient if an ordinary person would conclude on the basis of appearance that the prospective recipient may be under the age of eighteen years.

(C) A person violating this section is subject to the penalties set forth in Section 16-17-500(E).

(D) A tobacco retail establishment violating this section is subject to administrative penalties as provided in Section 16-17-500(E)(3).

Enforcement

SECTION 8. Section 16-17-503 of the S.C. Code is amended to read:

Section 16-17-503. (A) The State Law Enforcement Division may conduct unannounced compliance checks for violations of Sections 16‑17‑500, 16-17-502, and 16-17-506. A person under the age of eighteen may be recruited and authorized by the State Law Enforcement Division to test the tobacco retail establishment’s compliance with Sections 16‑17‑500, 16‑17‑502, and 16-17-506. The testing must be under direct supervision of a law enforcement agency and with the consent of the person’s parent or guardian. The State Law Enforcement Division must notify the Department of Revenue of violations under Section 16‑17‑500(E)(3). The results of compliance checks resulting in a tobacco retailer being prohibited from selling or distributing tobacco products must be published by the Department of Revenue annually and made available to the public upon request. Penalties collected pursuant to Sections 16-17-500, 16-17-502, and 16-17-506 must be used to offset the costs of enforcement.

(B) The Director of the South Carolina Department of Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Services shall conduct random, unannounced inspections at locations where tobacco products are sold and at locations that have notified the Department of Revenue under Section 12-36-511 that the tobacco retailer sells or distributes tobacco products. A person under the age of twenty-one may be recruited and authorized by a law enforcement agency on behalf of the Department of Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Services to test a tobacco retail establishment’s compliance with federal laws relating to the unlawful sale of tobacco to minors for the purposes of federal reporting requirements. The Director of South Carolina Department of Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Services shall provide for the preparation of and submission annually to the Secretary of the United States Department of Health and Human Services the report required by Section 1926 of the federal Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300x-26) and otherwise is responsible for ensuring the state's compliance with that provision of federal law and implementing regulations promulgated by the United States Department of Health and Human Services.

Enforcement

SECTION 9. Section 16-17-504 of the S.C. Code is amended to read:

Section 16-17-504. (A) Sections 16-17-500, 16-17-502, 16-17-503, and 16-17-506 must be enforced to ensure the eligibility for and receipt of federal funds or grants the State receives or may receive relating to the sections. Any laws, ordinances, or rules enacted pertaining to tobacco products may not supersede state law or regulation. Nothing in this section affects the right of any person having ownership or otherwise controlling private property to allow or prohibit the use of tobacco products on the property.

(B) Smoking ordinances in effect before the effective date of this act are exempt from the requirements of subsection (A).

E-liquid containers

SECTION 10. Section 16-17-506 of the S.C. Code is amended to read:

Section 16-17-506. (A) For purposes of this section, “container” means a bottle or other container of any kind that contains e-liquid and is offered for sale, sold, or otherwise distributed, or intended for distribution to consumers, but that does not include a cartridge that is prefilled and sealed by the manufacturer and not intended to be opened by the customer.

(B) It is unlawful to sell, hold for sale, or distribute a container of e-liquid unless:

(1) the container satisfies the requirements of 21 C.F.R. 1143.3, if applicable, for the placement of labels, warnings, or any other information upon a package of e-liquid that is to be sold within the United States;

(2) the container complies with child-resistant effectiveness standards under 16 C.F.R. 1700.15(b)(1) when tested in accordance with the requirements of 16 C.F.R. 1700.20; and

(3) the container complies with federal trademark or copyright laws.

(C) A person who knowingly sells, holds for sale, or distributes e-liquid containers in violation of subsection (B) is guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction, must be imprisoned for not more than three years or fined not more than one thousand dollars, or both.

(D) In addition to the other penalties provided by law, law enforcement may seize and destroy or sell to the manufacturer, for export only, any containers in violation of this section.

(E) Any tobacco retailer or tobacco retail establishment that permits an employee to violate or knowingly violates subsection (B) is subject to the penalties in Section 16-17-500(E)(3).

Tobacco-free school campus policy

SECTION 11. Section 59-1-380 of the S.C. Code is amended to read:

Section 59-1-380. (A) Every local school district in the State shall implement and enforce a written policy prohibiting at all times the use of any tobacco product by any person in school buildings, in school facilities, on school campuses, and in or on any other school property owned or operated by the local school administrative unit. The policy also must prohibit the use of any tobacco product by persons attending a school-sponsored event at a location not listed in this subsection when in the presence of students or school personnel or in an area where smoking or other tobacco use is otherwise prohibited by law.

(B) The policy must include at least all of the following elements:

(1) adequate notice to students, parents or guardians, the public, and school personnel of the policy;

(2) posting of signs prohibiting at all times the use of tobacco products by any person in and on school property; and

(3) requirements that school personnel enforce the policy, including appropriate disciplinary action.

(C) Disciplinary actions for violating the policy may include, but not be limited to:

(1) for students: administrator and parent or legal guardian conference, mandatory enrollment in tobacco prevention education or cessation programs, community service, in-school suspension, suspension for extracurricular activities, or out-of-school suspension;

(2) for staff: verbal reprimand, written notification in personnel file, mandatory enrollment in tobacco prevention education, voluntary enrollment in cessation programs, or suspension;

(3) for contract or other workers: verbal reprimand, notification to contract employer, or removal from district property; and

(4) for visitors: verbal request to leave district property or prosecution for disorderly conduct for repeated offenses.

(D) The local school district shall collaborate with the Department of Health and Environmental Control, the Department of Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Services, and the South Carolina Department of Education, as appropriate, to implement the policy, including as part of tobacco education and cessation programs and substance use prevention efforts.

(E) The policy may permit tobacco products to be included in instructional or research activities in public school buildings if the activity is conducted or supervised by the faculty member overseeing the instruction or research and the activity does not include smoking, chewing, inhaling, or otherwise ingesting the tobacco product.

(F) For purposes of this section “tobacco product” has the same meaning as defined in Section 16‑17‑501.

Disclosure, sale of tobacco products by retailer

SECTION 12. Chapter 36, Title 12 of the S.C. Code is amended by adding:

Section 12-36-511. A retailer must submit whether it sells tobacco, tobacco products, including electronic smoking devices or e-liquid, as defined in Section 16-17-501(3) and (4), or any other product used for smoking with its retail application. A retailer not previously designated as a tobacco retail establishment, as defined in Section 16-17-501, shall notify the department in the manner prescribed by the department prior to selling tobacco products. For the purposes of this section, tobacco retailers and tobacco retail establishments that have a retail license must supplement their retail license application to notify the department that they sell or distribute tobacco or tobacco products. For the purposes of this section, a retailer that sells tobacco, tobacco products, or any other product used for smoking that does not disclose on their initial retail application or supplement their retail license application is subject to a fine of not more than two hundred dollars and must file within fifteen days of notification of a failure to file. A retailer that fails to file within fifteen days after the notification is subject to a fine of two thousand dollars.

Time effective

SECTION 13. This act takes effect ninety days after approval by the Governor except SECTION 2, SECTION 3, and SECTION 4 which take effect upon approval by the Governor.

Ratified the 11th day of May, 2023.

Approved the 16th day of May, 2023.

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