

**As Introduced**

**133rd General Assembly  
Regular Session  
2019-2020**

**H. B. No. 346**

**Representative Patton**

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**A BILL**

To amend section 2927.02 of the Revised Code to 1  
prohibit the sale of flavored electronic smoking 2  
devices and flavored vapor products and to 3  
establish a committee to study the health risks 4  
associated with such products. 5

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF OHIO:**

**Section 1.** That section 2927.02 of the Revised Code be 6  
amended to read as follows: 7

**Sec. 2927.02.** (A) As used in this section and sections 8  
2927.021 and 2927.022 of the Revised Code: 9

(1) "Age verification" means a service provided by an 10  
independent third party (other than a manufacturer, producer, 11  
distributor, wholesaler, or retailer of cigarettes, other 12  
tobacco products, alternative nicotine products, or papers used 13  
to roll cigarettes) that compares information available from a 14  
commercially available database, or aggregate of databases, that 15  
regularly are used by government and businesses for the purpose 16  
of age and identity verification to personal information 17  
provided during an internet sale or other remote method of sale 18  
to establish that the purchaser is twenty-one years of age or 19

older. 20

(2) (a) "Alternative nicotine product" means, subject to 21  
division (A) (2) (b) of this section, an electronic smoking 22  
device, vapor product, or any other product or device that 23  
consists of or contains nicotine that can be ingested into the 24  
body by any means, including, but not limited to, chewing, 25  
smoking, absorbing, dissolving, or inhaling. 26

(b) "Alternative nicotine product" does not include any of 27  
the following: 28

(i) Any cigarette or other tobacco product; 29

(ii) Any product that is a "drug" as that term is defined 30  
in 21 U.S.C. 321(g) (1); 31

(iii) Any product that is a "device" as that term is 32  
defined in 21 U.S.C. 321(h); 33

(iv) Any product that is a "combination product" as 34  
described in 21 U.S.C. 353(g). 35

(3) "Cigarette" includes clove cigarettes and hand-rolled 36  
cigarettes. 37

(4) "Characterizing flavor" means a taste or aroma, other 38  
than the taste or aroma of tobacco, emitted either prior to or 39  
during consumption of a tobacco product. "Characterizing flavor" 40  
includes tastes or aromas relating to food or drink of any sort, 41  
menthol, mint, wintergreen, fruit, chocolate, vanilla, honey, 42  
candy, cocoa, dessert, alcoholic beverages, herbs, or spices. 43

(5) "Distribute" means to furnish, give, or provide 44  
cigarettes, other tobacco products, alternative nicotine 45  
products, or papers used to roll cigarettes to the ultimate 46  
consumer of the cigarettes, other tobacco products, alternative 47

nicotine products, or papers used to roll cigarettes. 48

~~(5)~~ (6) "Electronic smoking device" means any device that 49  
can be used to deliver aerosolized or vaporized nicotine or any 50  
other substance to the person inhaling from the device including 51  
an electronic cigarette, electronic cigar, electronic hookah, 52  
vaping pen, or electronic pipe. "Electronic smoking device" 53  
includes any component, part, or accessory of such a device, 54  
whether or not sold separately, and includes any substance 55  
intended to be aerosolized or vaporized during the use of the 56  
device. "Electronic smoking device" does not include any product 57  
that is a drug, device, or combination product, as those terms 58  
are defined or described in 21 U.S.C. 321 and 353(g). 59

~~(6) "Proof of age" means a driver's license, a commercial 60  
driver's license, a military identification card, a passport, or 61  
an identification card issued under sections 4507.50 to 4507.52 62  
of the Revised Code that shows that a person is eighteen years 63  
of age or older. 64~~

(7) "Flavored electronic smoking device" means any 65  
electronic smoking device with a characterizing flavor. 66

(8) "Flavored vapor product" means any vapor product with 67  
a characterizing flavor. 68

(9) "Tobacco product" means any product that is made or 69  
derived from tobacco or that contains any form of nicotine, if 70  
it is intended for human consumption or is likely to be 71  
consumed, whether smoked, heated, chewed, absorbed, dissolved, 72  
inhaled, or ingested by any other means, including, but not 73  
limited to, a cigarette, an electronic smoking device, a cigar, 74  
pipe tobacco, chewing tobacco, snuff, or snus. "Tobacco product" 75  
also means any component or accessory used in the consumption of 76

a tobacco product, such as filters, rolling papers, pipes, blunt 77  
or hemp wraps, and liquids used in electronic smoking devices, 78  
whether or not they contain nicotine. "Tobacco product" does not 79  
include any product that is a drug, device, or combination 80  
product, as those terms are defined or described in 21 U.S.C. 81  
321 and 353(g). 82

~~(8)~~ (10) "Vapor product" means a product, other than a 83  
cigarette or other tobacco product as defined in Chapter 5743. 84  
of the Revised Code, that contains or is made or derived from 85  
nicotine and that is intended and marketed for human 86  
consumption, including by smoking, inhaling, snorting, or 87  
sniffing. "Vapor product" includes any component, part, or 88  
additive that is intended for use in an electronic smoking 89  
device, a mechanical heating element, battery, or electronic 90  
circuit and is used to deliver the product. "Vapor product" does 91  
not include any product that is a drug, device, or combination 92  
product, as those terms are defined or described in 21 U.S.C. 93  
321 and 353(g). "Vapor product" includes any product containing 94  
nicotine, regardless of concentration. 95

~~(9)~~ (11) "Vending machine" has the same meaning as "coin 96  
machine" in section 2913.01 of the Revised Code. 97

(B) No manufacturer, producer, distributor, wholesaler, or 98  
retailer of cigarettes, other tobacco products, alternative 99  
nicotine products, or papers used to roll cigarettes, no agent, 100  
employee, or representative of a manufacturer, producer, 101  
distributor, wholesaler, or retailer of cigarettes, other 102  
tobacco products, alternative nicotine products, or papers used 103  
to roll cigarettes, and no other person shall do any of the 104  
following: 105

(1) Give, sell, or otherwise distribute cigarettes, other 106

tobacco products, alternative nicotine products, or papers used	107
to roll cigarettes to any person under twenty-one years of age;	108
(2) Give away, sell, or distribute cigarettes, other	109
tobacco products, alternative nicotine products, or papers used	110
to roll cigarettes in any place that does not have posted in a	111
conspicuous place a legibly printed sign in letters at least	112
one-half inch high stating that giving, selling, or otherwise	113
distributing cigarettes, other tobacco products, alternative	114
nicotine products, or papers used to roll cigarettes to a person	115
under twenty-one years of age is prohibited by law;	116
(3) Knowingly furnish any false information regarding the	117
name, age, or other identification of any person under twenty-	118
one years of age with purpose to obtain cigarettes, other	119
tobacco products, alternative nicotine products, or papers used	120
to roll cigarettes for that person;	121
(4) Manufacture, sell, or distribute in this state any	122
pack or other container of cigarettes containing fewer than	123
twenty cigarettes or any package of roll-your-own tobacco	124
containing less than six-tenths of one ounce of tobacco;	125
(5) Sell cigarettes or alternative nicotine products in a	126
smaller quantity than that placed in the pack or other container	127
by the manufacturer;	128
(6) Give, sell, or otherwise distribute alternative	129
nicotine products, papers used to roll cigarettes, or tobacco	130
products other than cigarettes over the internet or through	131
another remote method without age verification;	132
<u>(7) Give away, sell, or otherwise distribute flavored</u>	133
<u>electronic smoking devices or flavored vapor products that have</u>	134
<u>not received approval from the United States food and drug</u>	135

<u>administration.</u>	136
(C) No person shall sell or offer to sell cigarettes,	137
other tobacco products, or alternative nicotine products by or	138
from a vending machine, except in the following locations:	139
(1) An area within a factory, business, office, or other	140
place not open to the general public;	141
(2) An area to which persons under twenty-one years of age	142
are not generally permitted access;	143
(3) Any other place not identified in division (C) (1) or	144
(2) of this section, upon all of the following conditions:	145
(a) The vending machine is located within the immediate	146
vicinity, plain view, and control of the person who owns or	147
operates the place, or an employee of that person, so that all	148
cigarettes, other tobacco product, and alternative nicotine	149
product purchases from the vending machine will be readily	150
observed by the person who owns or operates the place or an	151
employee of that person. For the purpose of this section, a	152
vending machine located in any unmonitored area, including an	153
unmonitored coatroom, restroom, hallway, or outer waiting area,	154
shall not be considered located within the immediate vicinity,	155
plain view, and control of the person who owns or operates the	156
place, or an employee of that person.	157
(b) The vending machine is inaccessible to the public when	158
the place is closed.	159
(c) A clearly visible notice is posted in the area where	160
the vending machine is located that states the following in	161
letters that are legibly printed and at least one-half inch	162
high:	163

"It is illegal for any person under the age of 21 to purchase tobacco or alternative nicotine products."	164
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(D) The following are affirmative defenses to a charge under division (B) (1) of this section:	166
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(1) The person under twenty-one years of age was accompanied by a parent, spouse who is twenty-one years of age or older, or legal guardian of the person under twenty-one years of age.	168
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(2) The person who gave, sold, or distributed cigarettes, other tobacco products, alternative nicotine products, or papers used to roll cigarettes to a person under twenty-one years of age under division (B) (1) of this section is a parent, spouse who is twenty-one years of age or older, or legal guardian of the person under twenty-one years of age.	172
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(E) It is not a violation of division (B) (1) or (2) of this section for a person to give or otherwise distribute to a person under twenty-one years of age cigarettes, other tobacco products, alternative nicotine products, or papers used to roll cigarettes while the person under twenty-one years of age is participating in a research protocol if all of the following apply:	178
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(1) The parent, guardian, or legal custodian of the person under twenty-one years of age has consented in writing to the person under twenty-one years of age participating in the research protocol.	185
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(2) An institutional human subjects protection review board, or an equivalent entity, has approved the research protocol.	189
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(3) The person under twenty-one years of age is	192

participating in the research protocol at the facility or 193  
location specified in the research protocol. 194

(F) (1) Whoever violates division (B) (1), (2), (4), (5), ~~or~~ 195  
(6), or (7) or (C) of this section is guilty of illegal 196  
distribution of cigarettes, other tobacco products, or 197  
alternative nicotine products. Except as otherwise provided in 198  
this division, illegal distribution of cigarettes, other tobacco 199  
products, or alternative nicotine products is a misdemeanor of 200  
the fourth degree. If the offender previously has been convicted 201  
of a violation of division (B) (1), (2), (4), (5), ~~or~~ (6), or (7) 202  
or (C) of this section, illegal distribution of cigarettes, 203  
other tobacco products, or alternative nicotine products is a 204  
misdemeanor of the third degree. 205

(2) Whoever violates division (B) (3) of this section is 206  
guilty of permitting a person under twenty-one years of age to 207  
use cigarettes, other tobacco products, or alternative nicotine 208  
products. Except as otherwise provided in this division, 209  
permitting a person under twenty-one years of age to use 210  
cigarettes, other tobacco products, or alternative nicotine 211  
products is a misdemeanor of the fourth degree. If the offender 212  
previously has been convicted of a violation of division (B) (3) 213  
of this section, permitting a person under twenty-one years of 214  
age to use cigarettes, other tobacco products, or alternative 215  
nicotine products is a misdemeanor of the third degree. 216

(G) Any cigarettes, other tobacco products, alternative 217  
nicotine products, or papers used to roll cigarettes that are 218  
given, sold, or otherwise distributed to a person under twenty- 219  
one years of age in violation of this section and that are used, 220  
possessed, purchased, or received by a person under twenty-one 221  
years of age in violation of section 2151.87 of the Revised Code 222



are subject to seizure and forfeiture as contraband under	223
Chapter 2981. of the Revised Code.	224
<b>Section 2.</b> That existing section 2927.02 of the Revised	225
Code is hereby repealed.	226
<b>Section 3.</b> (A) There is hereby created a committee to	227
study the health risks associated with the use of electronic	228
smoking devices and vapor products. The committee shall consist	229
of the following members:	230
(1) Two members of the House of Representatives, one from	231
the majority party and one from the minority party, both	232
appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives;	233
(2) Two members of the Senate, one from the majority party	234
and one from the minority party, both appointed by the President	235
of the Senate;	236
(3) One member appointed by the Governor.	237
(B) (1) The committee shall conduct a study regarding the	238
health risks associated with the use of electronic smoking	239
devices and vapor products. In conducting this study, the	240
committee shall consider both of the following:	241
(a) The prevalence of the use of electronic smoking	242
devices and vapor products in this state;	243
(b) The effects of the use of electronic smoking devices	244
and vapor products on the human body, including the cause of any	245
adverse health effects associated with use of these products.	246
(2) Not later than six months after the effective date of	247
this section, the committee shall submit a report to the General	248
Assembly pursuant to section 101.68 of the Revised Code	249
detailing its findings and any recommendations related to the	250

health risks associated with the use of electronic smoking	251
devices and vapor products.	252
(C) The committee shall cease to exist following the	253
submission of its report.	254