**House Bill 1662**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bill Number/Title</th>
<th>HB1662: AN ACT relative to the purchase, use, and possession of tobacco products and e-cigarettes. Raising the age from 19 to 21.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| History/Context  | **Introduction**: Tobacco products kill half a million Americans each year. Youth access to tobacco products compounds this problem because young people exposed to nicotine are particularly likely to become lifelong users. Smoking kills more people than alcohol, AIDS, car crashes, illegal drugs, murders, and suicides combined; and thousands more die from other tobacco-related causes such as fires caused by smoking (more than 1,000 deaths/year nationwide) and smokeless tobacco use. A few reasons why raising the sales age to 21 will make a difference:  
• Virtually all (94 percent) of adult smokers had their first cigarette before turning 21, and most (81 percent) before age 18.  
• Smokers aged 18 and 19 years old are often a supplier for younger kids who rely on friends, classmates and peers to buy tobacco products. Since students do not typically reach 21 years old while still in high school, increasing the age of sale would greatly reduce the number of high school students who could purchase tobacco products.  
• Increasing the sales age for tobacco products to 21 will help counter the tobacco industry's efforts to target young people at a critical time when many move from experimenting with tobacco to regular smoking.  
• A national sales age of 21 for alcohol sales resulted in reduced alcohol consumption among youth, decreased alcohol dependence and has led to a dramatic reduction in drunk driving fatalities. It's predicted that raising the national sales age for tobacco products will have similar effects.  

The potential impact is significant. According to a 2015 report from the National Academy of Medicine, if the minimum age were increased to 21 years of age:  
• Tobacco use would decrease by 12 percent by the time today’s teenagers were adults and smoking-related deaths will decrease by 10 percent.  
• Smoking initiation will be reduced by 25 percent for 15-17 year olds and 15 percent for 18-20 year olds.  
• Nationwide, it could prevent 223,000 deaths among people born between 2000 and 2019, including 50,000 fewer dying from lung cancer, the nation’s leading cancer killer.  

**History**:  
• On September 29, 2019 the State of NH raised the age to purchase
tobacco and vaping products from 18 to 19.

- Between June of 2018 and November of 2019, the Cities of Dover, Newmarket, Franklin, Keene, & Durham have all implemented Tobacco 21 laws.

### New Hampshire Data & Statistics:
- High school students who smoke: 7.8% (5,300).
- High school students who use e-cigarettes: 23.8%.
- Kids (under 18) who become new daily smokers each year: 300.
- Adults in New Hampshire who smoke: 15.6% (171,300).
- Proportion of cancer deaths in New Hampshire attributable to smoking: 27.0%.
- Adults who die each year from their own smoking: 1,900.
- Kids now under 18 and alive in New Hampshire who will ultimately die prematurely from smoking: 22,000.
- Annual health care costs in New Hampshire directly caused by smoking: $729 million.
- Medicaid costs caused by smoking in New Hampshire: $139.2 million.
- Residents' state & federal tax burden from smoking-caused government expenditures: $769 per household.
- Smoking-caused productivity losses in New Hampshire: $506.9 million.

### Federal Note:
- On December 20, 2019, the President signed legislation to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act, and raise the federal minimum age of sale of tobacco products from 18 to 21 years. It is now illegal for a retailer to sell any tobacco product – including cigarettes, cigars and e-cigarettes – to anyone under 21.
- FDA regulates all tobacco products, including e-cigarettes, hookah tobacco, and cigars. If you sell tobacco products, you must comply with all applicable federal laws and regulations for retailers.

### Implications for Nursing: Nurses:
- in all practice areas care for patients with primary use of, or exposure to second hand smoke from tobacco and vaping products. Smoking cessation and primary prevention is a key topic for nurses to provide as patient education.

### Pros
- Aligns with federal legislation.
- Sets health standard for NH residents.
- Fiscal impact of signage & enforcement not relevant now required due to federal legislation.

### Cons
- Federal legislation sets precedence.
- Does not make “smoking” illegal, makes it inaccessible to purchase.
- Does not make “smoking” illegal, unlike laws r/t alcohol “minor in
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Committee</th>
<th>House Commerce and Consumer Affairs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Position</td>
<td>Support</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**References:**

