

MDDCSAM is the Maryland state chapter of the American Society of Addiction Medicine whose members are physicians and other health providers who treat people with substance use disorders.

SB 244 - Public Health – Clean Indoor Air Act – Revisions

Senate Finance Committee, Feb. 8, 2024

FAVORABLE

The Maryland-DC Society of Addiction Medicine supports passage of **Senate Bill 244 - Public Health Clean Indoor Air Act – Revisions.**” This bill prohibits vaping of tobacco and cannabis products in certain indoor public areas where smoking tobacco and cannabis products is already prohibited under the Clean Indoor Air Act (CIAA). Use of electronic smoking devices (ESDs, also known as e-cigarettes, vapes, and electronic nicotine (or drug) delivery devices) is not currently prohibited under the CIAA. We believe that extending the CIAA to cover ESDs is consistent with the purpose and spirit of the CIAA by reducing exposure to potentially harmful aerosols.

While vaping was relatively rare when the CIAA was first adopted in 2007, it is now growing in popularity, especially among young adults 18-25 years old. In 2022, an estimated one-third of US young adults and 13.8% of adolescents (12-17 years old) vaped tobacco products that year and one-fifth of young adults and 6.8% of adolescents vaped cannabis products.¹ Among Maryland high school students in 2021, almost one-quarter (23.9%) of 9th graders and two-fifths of 12th graders had ever vaped tobacco products; 6.3% of 9th graders and one-fifth of 12 graders had ever vaped cannabis products.² Among US 9th-12th graders who use ESDs, an estimated one-third to one-half vape both nicotine and cannabis.³ Prohibition of indoor vaping may reduce opportunities for adolescents and young adults to initiate or continue vaping.

Vaping of tobacco and cannabis products generates second-hand vapor (actually an aerosol), analogous to second-hand smoke.^{4,5} Second-hand ESD aerosol is not water vapor but a chemical mixture that contains nicotine or cannabinoids, depending on the product, as well as other potentially harmful chemicals such as solvents and flavorings.^{4,5} Aerosolized chemicals are deposited on environmental surfaces such as furniture and window coverings, leading to third-hand exposure.^{6,7} Few studies have been published on the harms of second- or third-hand exposure to ESD aerosols, but there is little reason to think that these chemicals are safer when generated by ESD use than they would be from other exposures. The US Environmental Protection Agency recommends banning e-cigarette use inside buildings as the only way to eliminate second-hand exposure to their aerosol and the potential associated harms.⁴ Ventilation and air filtration may reduce some exposure but is unlikely to eliminate exposure completely. As of January 1, 2023, 23 states and territories prohibited cannabis vaping and smoking in at least some public indoor venues.⁸

Youth seeing others vaping indoors may encourage them to also vape, due to social norms and social modeling. Youth with friends who use cannabis are more likely themselves to use cannabis than are youth without cannabis-using friends.⁹

(... continued)

In summary, MDDCSAM supports the passage of SB244 in order to reduce the health risks from exposure to second- and third-hand EDS aerosol and to reduce the exposure of youth to others using EDS.

References

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