

Legislative Updates:

I. E-Cigarettes Legislation:

Public Act 14-xx (SB24) bans the sale of both electronic nicotine delivery systems and vapor products to minors under eighteen. The Governor made it a priority to pass a ban on the sale of e-cigarettes to minors and it passed the legislature unanimously.

○ Under the bill an “electronic nicotine delivery system” is an electronic device used to simulate smoking in delivering nicotine or another substance to a person who inhales from it. Delivery systems include “vapor products” and electronic (1) cigarettes; (2) cigars; (3) cigarillos; (4) pipes; and (5) hookahs and related devices, cartridges, or other components.

○ A “vapor product” uses a heating element; power source; electronic circuit; or other electronic, chemical, or mechanical means, regardless of shape or size, to produce a vapor the user inhales. The vapor may or may not include nicotine. It is not clear how a delivery system or vapor product that does not contain nicotine can be considered an electronic nicotine delivery system.

- • Under the bill, a minor who (1) buys an e-cigarette, (2) misrepresents his or her age to do so, or (3) possesses one in public, faces a fine of up to \$50 for a first offense and between \$50 and \$100 for each subsequent offense. Under the bill, a “public place” is an area used or held out for use by the public regardless of whether it is publicly or privately owned. Violators may pay the fine by mail, without making a court appearance.
- • The bill subjects anyone who sells, gives, or delivers an e-cigarette to a minor to a maximum fine of:
 1. \$200 for a first offense,
 2. \$350 for a second offense committed within 18 months of the first offense, and
 3. \$500 for each subsequent offense committed within 18 months.

II. DRUG OVERDOSE IMMUNITY BILL

1. • Public Act 14-61, HB 5487- An Act Providing Immunity to a Person Who Administers

an Opioid Antagonist to Another Person Experiencing an Opioid-Related Drug Overdose

passed the legislature with strong bipartisan support.

2. • The legislation authorizes anyone to administer an opioid antagonist, such as Narcan, to a

person he or she believes, in good faith, is experiencing an opioid-related drug overdose.
3. • The bill gives civil and criminal immunity to such a person who acts with reasonable care

in administering the opioid antagonist, unless he or she is a licensed health care professional acting in the ordinary course of employment.
4. • Existing law allows licensed health care practitioners authorized to prescribe an opioid antagonist, if acting with reasonable care, to prescribe, dispense, or administer it to treat or prevent a drug overdose without being civilly or criminally liable for the action or for its subsequent use. These practitioners can prescribe opioid antagonists to people who are not their patients to assist a person experiencing a drug overdose (that legislation passed in recent years)

III. MISSED OPPORTUNITIES– If you are interested in any of the following, please contact us at jkreiger@orange-ct.gov to let us tell you how you can help change the future:

FAILED BILLS

- • HB 5151 would have required operators of hookah lounges to be licensed and subjects the lounges and operators to municipal regulation. Under the bill, hookah lounges would be required to pay a one-time licensing fee of \$100 and an annual renewal fee of \$50.
- • SB 49 would have created a pilot program for exempting beer, wine and liquor from sales taxes during the winter holiday period.
- • SB 259 would have adopted the recommendations of the Connecticut Sentencing Commission regarding the enhanced penalty for the sale or possession of drugs near schools, day care centers and public housing projects
- • HB 5287 would have enabled the dangers of distracted driving behaviors to be taught in public schools.

