

[Save Lives California](#)

For Immediate Release

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Package of Tobacco Related Bills to Save Lives Passes First Legislative Stop in Special Session

Sacramento – Today, a package of bills aimed at reducing use of tobacco and saving lives passed its first hurdle in the special session on health care called by Governor Brown earlier this year.

Save Lives California is a coalition of healthcare providers and advocates dedicated to saving lives and tax dollars by reducing tobacco use. They issued the following statement from Kimberly Amazeen, Vice President, Public Policy & Advocacy, American Lung Association in California, after today's committee vote:

“The bills passed today in the Senate represent a huge step forward for the health and future of California. Keeping tobacco out of the hands of our youth and increasing the overall health and wellness of California is a clear priority for this legislature and we applaud their commitment to reducing tobacco consumption.

“Not only will this package of bills increase public health, but they will reduce teen smoking, which in turn will result in less heart disease, stroke and other smoking related illnesses. This step in the Senate represents a move toward immediate life saving policy in California, which is why such a broad and diverse coalition has come together supporting this package of bills.”

The bills now move to Senate Appropriations.

A full list of the bills is below. For more information about Save Lives California, please visit savelivescalifornia.org

SB 5 X2 (Leno)

Add e-cigarettes to existing tobacco products definition.

This bill addresses growing public health concerns about the unregulated use of electronic cigarettes (e-cigarettes) in California. It includes e-cigarettes within the existing tobacco products definition, thereby restricting the use of e-cigarettes in the same locations as traditional cigarettes. It will also increase the penalties and enforcement options for selling e-cigarettes to minors and require e-cigarette retailers to be licensed.

SB 6 X2 (Monning)

Close loopholes in smoke-free workplace laws, including hotel lobbies, small businesses, break rooms, and tobacco retailers.

In 1994, California led the nation when it passed a smoke-free workplace law. This groundbreaking law helped protect millions of workers and business patrons from the health dangers associated with

secondhand smoke, including cancer, heart disease and stroke, and respiratory diseases. However, that law, which included a handful of exemptions, now lags behind other states' smoke free workplace laws because of those exemptions. This bill repeals most of those exemptions.

SB 7 X2 (Hernandez)

Increase age of sale for tobacco products to 21.

It is estimated that 90 percent of tobacco users start prior to age 21, and 80 percent of lifetime users start before the age of 18. By increasing the minimum legal age to 21, this bill intends to prevent or severely restrict youth access to these highly addictive and deadly products.

SB 8 X2 (Liu)

Require all schools to be tobacco free.

This bill is aimed at reducing smoking prevalence among youth in California schools. Currently, only school districts and county offices of education that receive Proposition 99 Tobacco tax funding are required to adopt and enforce a tobacco-free campus policy. This bill would close that gap by requiring that all districts adopt 100% tobacco-free policies.

SB 9 X2 (McGuire)

Allow local jurisdictions to tax tobacco.

This bill would allow counties to levy taxes on tobacco distributors. It would be subject to the usual rules for the adoption of such taxes.

SB 10 X2 (Beall)

Establish an annual Board of Equalization tobacco licensing fee program.

Establish an annual Board of Equalization (BOE) tobacco licensing fee that is high enough to cover the program's cost, as opposed to the current one-time fee.

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