

HOUSE BILL REPORT

HB 1598

As Reported by House Committee On:
Health Care

Title: An act relating to tobacco product sampling.

Brief Description: Prohibiting tobacco product sampling.

Sponsors: Representatives Schual-Berke, McMahan, Lantz, Moeller, Ruderman, Cody, Pflug, Morrell, McDermott, Quall, Kenney, Rockefeller, Wood, Anderson, Kagi, Hunt, Campbell and Miloscia.

Brief History:

Committee Activity:

Health Care: 2/12/03, 2/20/03 [DP].

Brief Summary of Bill

- Distribution of samples of tobacco products to members of the public is prohibited.

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH CARE

Majority Report: Do pass. Signed by 12 members: Representatives Cody, Chair; Morrell, Vice Chair; Pflug, Ranking Minority Member; Bailey, Assistant Ranking Minority Member; Alexander, Campbell, Clibborn, Darneille, Edwards, Moeller, Schual-Berke and Skinner.

Minority Report: Do not pass. Signed by 1 member: Representative Benson.

Staff: Dave Knutson (786-7146).

Background:

A marketing technique used by cigarette makers is the distribution of free samples. The business of sampling is regulated by the Liquor Control Board. Upon payment of an annual fee, a sampler may distribute tobacco samples in authorized areas. These areas include: areas where children under the age of 18 are denied admission; in a store or concession to which a retailer's license has been issued; or at or adjacent to a production,

repair, or outdoor construction site or facility. Samplers are prohibited from distributing samples within 500 feet of a playground, school, or other facility being used primarily by persons under 18 years of age.

Summary of Bill:

Distribution of samples of tobacco products to members of the public is prohibited. Various provisions of the laws regulating this practice are deleted or repealed.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Not Requested.

Effective Date: The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.

Testimony For: Providing free tobacco samples to the public results in addiction and greater health care costs. This practice should be banned.

Testimony Against: None.

Testified: Representative Schual-Berke, prime sponsor; Mary Selecky, Department of Health; Dave Horn, Office of the Attorney General; Sarah Fisher and Ryan Lundquist, Teens Against Tobacco Use; Colin Jones, Public Health-Seattle King County; Mike O’Sullivan, American Cancer Society; Ivy Sager-Rosenthal, Washington Public Interest Research Group; and Nick Federici, American Lung Association of Washington.