



**STATE OF DELAWARE
STATE COUNCIL FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES**

**Margaret M. O'Neill Bldg., Suite 1
Dover, Delaware 19901
302-739-3621**

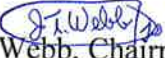
**The Honorable John Carney
Governor**

**John A. McNeal
Director**

MEMORANDUM

DATE: March 25, 2019

TO: All Members of the Delaware State Senate
and House of Representatives

FROM: 
Mr. J. Todd Webb, Chairperson
State Council for Persons with Disabilities

RE: S.S. 1 for S.B. 25 (Raising the Minimum Sale Age for Tobacco Products to
Individuals Over 21)

The State Council for Persons with Disabilities (SCPD) has reviewed S.S. 1 for S.B. 25, which prohibits the sale tobacco products and tobacco substitutes to individuals who are under 21 years of age, imposes a civil penalty for sales to individuals between 18-21, repeals the ability of a parent or guardian to purchase tobacco or tobacco substitutes for a minor, amends the definition of tobacco products to include “vapor products,” “liquids used in electronic smoking devices,” and “electronic smoking devices,” and prohibits individuals under age 21 from entering vapor establishments. SCPD has the following observations to the proposed legislation.

This bill Current law prohibits the sale of tobacco products to those under the age of 18. As of March 1, 2019, seven states – California, New Jersey, Massachusetts, Oregon, Hawaii, Maine and Virginia– have raised the tobacco age to 21, along with at least 440 localities, including New York City, Chicago, San Antonio, Boston, Cleveland, Minneapolis, both Kansas Cities and Washington, DC.

The SCPD is advocating for the implementation of proven smoking cessation treatments and services, along with targeted media campaigns that effectively address the challenges people with disabilities may face when attempting to quit using tobacco products. According to the CDC, the percentage of adults who smoke cigarettes is higher among people with disabilities than people without disabilities. This difference in rates of smoking demonstrates the importance of making sure that programs that focus on reducing smoking to promote health and prevent long-standing diseases are inclusive for people with disabilities. Inclusive smoking cessation programs need to

be accessible to those who want to participate and in some cases adapted to address the needs and expectations of the target population.

Thank you for your consideration and please contact SCPD if you have any questions regarding our observations on the proposed legislation.

cc: Ms. Laura Waterland, Esq.
Governor's Advisory Council for Exceptional Citizens
Developmental Disabilities Council

SB 25 raising minimum sale age for tobacco prod to over 21 3-25-19