



MULTNOMAH COUNTY AGENDA PLACEMENT REQUEST

(Revised: 1/11/2016)

Board Clerk Use Only

Meeting Date: 9/13/16
Agenda Item #: B.1
Est. Start Time: 10:00 am
Date Submitted: 9/1/16

Agenda Title: Informational Briefing to the Board of Health on Tobacco Sales Age

Note: Title should not be more than 2 lines but be sufficient to describe the action requested.

Requested Meeting Date: September 13, 2016
Time Needed: 75 minutes
Department: Non-departmental
Division: District 1
Contact(s): Henry Burton, Policy Director
Phone: 503-988-5882 **Ext.** **I/O Address:**

Presenter Name(s) & Title(s):
Joanne Fuller, Health Department Director
Rhys Scholes, Policy Manager, Office of Government Relations
Dr. Elizabeth Steiner Hayward, Oregon State Senator
Dr. Greg Blaschke, President, Oregon Pediatric Society
Dr. Ben Hoffman, Board Member, Oregon Pediatric Society
Other invited guests TBD

General Information

1. What are you requesting from the Board?

No action, briefing only.

2. Please provide sufficient background information for the Board and the public to understand this issue. Please note which Program Offer(s) this action affects and how it impacts the results.

This briefing will provide an informational update to the board, acting in its capacity as the Local Board of Health, on the public health concern of youth tobacco use.

Reduction of teen smoking is an important public health goal. Young brains are particularly susceptible to nicotine's effects and addictive qualities. The majority of smokers become addicted while teenagers. Tobacco addiction can lead to disease and premature death.

This discussion of tobacco policy is timely in light of recent policy changes around the country. The presenters will discuss the potential public health implications of raising the minimum sales age for tobacco retailers. Issues to consider include the opportunity to keep tobacco out of high schools; how such a policy would affect racial disparities in tobacco usage and health outcomes; and how to provide cessation assistance for youth who are already addicted to nicotine products.

Under current law, the minimum age for purchase and possession of tobacco in Oregon is 18. Several jurisdictions outside of Oregon have raised the minimum sales age to 21, including New York City; Kansas City, MO; Boston; Cleveland; and Hawaii. The most recent large jurisdictions to adopt tobacco-21 policies are California (effective June 9, 2016) and Chicago (effective July 1, 2016).

If Multnomah County chose to change the minimum age, any changes would presumably focus on retailers rather than consumers. The County could prohibit retailers from selling tobacco products to anyone under the age of 21.

A new policy regarding the tobacco sales age could complement the County's recently adopted tobacco retail licensing program, which is aimed at improving compliance with state and local laws in order to ameliorate the public health impact of tobacco use. The tobacco retail licensing program provides an effective means of enforcing the minimum sales age.

3. Explain the fiscal impact (current year and ongoing).

N/A.

4. Explain any legal and/or policy issues involved.

Multnomah County can regulate tobacco sales using its constitutional home rule authority and its authority as the Local Public Health Authority. The County has the power to enact local laws that do not contradict state law. Increasing the minimum sales age for tobacco would be compatible with, but more restrictive than, state law.

5. Explain any citizen and/or other government participation that has or will take place.

The Board has held multiple briefings around youth access and usage to tobacco and e-cigarettes in the last few years. The Board recently adopted policy requiring retailers to be licensed to sell tobacco products.

Required Signature

Elected Official

or Department/

Agency Director:

Commissioner Jules Bailey

9/1/16

Date:

Note: Please submit electronically. Insert names of your approvers followed by /s/ - we no longer use actual signatures. Please insert date approved for submittal.