



MULTNOMAH COUNTY AGENDA PLACEMENT REQUEST

(Revised: 6/3/2014)

Board Clerk Use Only

Meeting Date: 9/24/15
Agenda Item #: R.2
Est. Start Time: 9:45 am approx..
Date Submitted: 9/16/15

Agenda Title: **Board briefing on tobacco retail licensing**

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

Requested Meeting Date: September 24, 2015 **Time Needed:** One hour
Department: Non-Departmental **Division:** Chair's Office
Contact(s): Liz Smith-Currie
Phone: 503-988-3308 **Ext.** 84435 **I/O Address:** 503-600
Presenter Name(s) & Title(s): Rhys Scholes, Policy Manager, Office of Government Relations
Jae Douglas, Environmental Health Director, Health Department

General Information

1. What action 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 this action affects and how it impacts the results.

In the last year, the BCC and Board of Health have held a series of briefings on the health impacts of tobacco and e-cigarettes. In February, the Board of Health adopted a policy order indicating the intention of the county to consider tobacco retail licensing if the state legislature did not pass a statewide licensing program. The state did not pass tobacco retail licensing during the 2015 legislative session.

This briefing provides information on retail tobacco licensing in other jurisdictions around the nation and on some specific strategies intended to reduce youth smoking.

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

This is a briefing only and there is no fiscal impact at this time. The briefing covers Tobacco Retail Licensing programs in other jurisdictions which are often self-supporting with the license fee calculated to offset program costs.

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

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.

Reducing illegal tobacco sales to minors is an important tool to reduce youth smoking. Multnomah County has one of the highest rates of sales to minors. The 2014-15 federally – mandated Synar survey found that 31% of Multnomah County retailers sold cigarettes to minors.

Other jurisdictions have used retail tobacco licensing as a strategy to reduce sales to minors. Licensing can support retailer education and enforcement of regulations regarding sales and marketing of tobacco and tobacco products.

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

In the last year, the BCC and Board of Health have held a series of briefings on the health impacts of tobacco and e-cigarettes including briefings in East County cities.

In February, the Board of Health adopted a policy order indicating the intention of the county to consider tobacco retail licensing if the state legislature did not pass a statewide licensing program. The state did not pass tobacco retail licensing during the 2015 legislative session.

Public hearings will precede any formal action on retail tobacco licensing.

Required Signature

**Elected Official
or Department/
Agency Director:**

Nancy Bennett /s/

Date: 9/16/15

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