

SS SCS SB 841 -- ALTERNATIVE NICOTINE OR VAPOR PRODUCTS

SPONSOR: Wasson (Rowden)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Committee on General Laws by a vote of 13 to 3.

This bill extends the requirements for selling or distributing tobacco products to an individual or entity selling or distributing alternative nicotine products or vapor products including the prohibition of selling these products to an individual under 18 years of age. The bill specifies alternative nicotine products or vapor products must not be taxed or otherwise regulated as tobacco products.

Currently, no person may sell cigarettes or tobacco products unless they have a retail sales tax license. The bill requires that a seller of any alternative nicotine product or vapor product also have a license. The Department of Revenue is then required to provide a list of every establishment that sells these products to the Division of Liquor Control. The Division of Liquor Control is authorized to inspect all stores for compliance. The bill also modifies provisions relating to Division of Liquor Control inspections.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that this bill keeps products containing nicotine out of minors' hands.

Testifying for the bill were Senator Wasson; Missouri Retailers Association; and Missouri Petroleum Marketers and Convenience Store Association.

OPPOSERS: Those opposing the bill say that they are concerned about the definitions, special treatment of electronic cigarettes, and potential for complicating enforcement.

Testifying against the bill were American Heart Association; Missouri Association of Osteopathic Physicians; Dina van der Zalm; Missouri State Medical Association; American Lung Association; American Cancer Society Action Network; Missouri Academy of Family Physicians; Missouri Association of Local Public Health; Traci Kennedy, Tobacco Free Missouri; and Stanley Cowan.