

HB 531 -- LIQUID NICOTINE CONTAINERS

SPONSOR: Solon

COMMITTEE ACTIONS: Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Emerging Issues by a vote of 12 to 0. Voted "Do Pass" by the Select Committee on General Laws by a vote of 9 to 0.

This bill changes the law regarding liquid nicotine containers. The bill requires that any nicotine liquid container that is sold at retail in Missouri to satisfy the child-resistant effectiveness standards set forth in 16 Code of Federal Regulations 1700.15(b) as in effect on the effective date of these provisions. The bill defines "nicotine liquid container" as a bottle or other container of liquid or other substance containing nicotine if the liquid or substance is sold, marketed, or intended for use in a vapor product. A nicotine liquid container must not include a liquid or other substance containing nicotine in a cartridge that is sold, marketed, or intended for use in a vapor product if the cartridge is prefilled and sealed by the manufacturer and not intended to be opened by the consumer. Any person who engages in retail sales of liquid nicotine containers in Missouri in violation of these provisions must be assessed a fine of \$250 for the first violation and \$500 for each subsequent violation.

The provisions of the bill and any rules adopted pursuant to these provisions must be null, void, and of no force and effect upon the effective date of the final regulations issued by the federal Food and Drug Administration or from any other federal agency if the regulations mandate child-resistant effectiveness standards for nicotine liquid containers.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that the bill will ensure child safety and help to prevent accidental nicotine poisoning. Most products with similar potential to harm children are regulated with child-resistant packaging guidelines, but this new industry is unregulated.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Solon; Julie A Weber, SSM Cardinal Glennon Childrens Medical Center; Missouri Children's Leadership Council; Stan Cowan; and Jennifer Lowry, MD.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.