

Hull raising age to buy tobacco products to 21

- [By Fred Hanson](#)

The Patriot Ledger

Posted Oct. 1, 2014 @ 4:00 am

HULL – The minimum age to buy cigarettes, cigars and other tobacco products will be going up from 18 to 21 on Jan. 1.

The town's board of health unanimously approved the restriction at its meeting Tuesday, making the town the state's 33rd community where you must be 21 to purchase tobacco products.

Other local communities adopting the same minimum age are Braintree, Scituate, Sharon and Canton.

The board also voted to prohibit smoking in the town's parks, playgrounds and adjacent parking areas, effective Nov. 1. That restriction came at the request of the parks and recreation department.

Board Chairman Donald Gillis said the age increase for purchases "will save lives. The evidence is out there."

Board member Virginia MacDonald said that only 10 percent of smokers pick up the habit at age 21 or older.

"The younger you start, the less likely you are to stop smoking later," she said.

Board member Jennifer Butler-Rickard said she would like the age raised even higher.

"It is really in these early years that (smokers) pick up the habit," she said.

There was no opposition to the change at the meeting.

The only person who spoke at the meeting was Jackie Doane, program coordinator of the Greater Boston Tobacco-Free Community Partnership, who updated the board on various tobacco restrictions being enacted in communities around the state. Among them are

| *restrictions on the sale of electronic cigarettes and on flavored cigars.*

| *The board will meet on Oct. 28 to amend its regulations to reflect the change.*

| *Park and Recreation Commission member Steve Williamson said his board had voted Sept. 18 to seek the smoking ban in parks and playgrounds.*

| *He said that some smokers are lighting up in the parking lots, “but that’s very close to the field area” where children are playing.*

| *Gillis said the reason for the smoking ban “is because it is hazardous to children.”*

| *The delay is to allow for signs to be posted with the smoking prohibition in the parks.*

| *Hingham’s board of health is considering a ban on the sale of electronic cigarettes to anyone under the age of 18. The board is scheduled to take up the matter at an Oct 28 meeting.*

| *Fred Hanson may be reached at fhanson@ledger.com.*

© Copyright 2006-2014 Gatehouse Media, Inc. Some rights reserved [Privacy Policy](#) | [Terms of Service](#) | [Gatehouse Media Publications](#)

Original content available for non-commercial use under a Creative Commons license, except where noted.

The Patriot Ledger, Quincy, MA | 400 Crown Colony Drive, P.O. Box 699159, Quincy, MA 02269

