

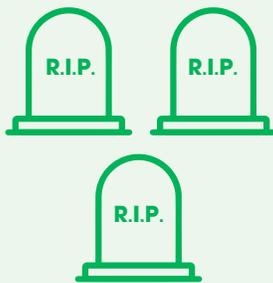
Why Implement A Tobacco Retail License?

In October 2019, Ohio implemented a statewide Tobacco 21 law, and in December 2019, the federal government followed suit, enacting legislation that raised the legal sale age for all nicotine products from 18 to 21 effective across the United States.

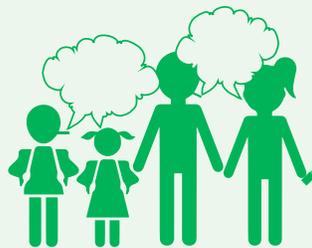
However, no law works unless it is enforced.

Statewide, Ohio has failed to undertake a comprehensive compliance approach to enforce the new minimum legal sales age of 21, and the Food and Drug Administration, which is empowered to enforce federal tobacco sales laws, has historically failed to enforce underage sales laws in Ohio. It has always been up to local authorities to require local retailers to abide by youth protection laws.

Tobacco Retail Licensing (TRL) has become an essential tool in both protecting kids from irresponsible or unscrupulous retailers, and in leveling the playing field for those retailers who do abide by the rules. Current Ohio law has a weak tobacco-tax permit system for cigarettes that ignores e-cigarettes, cigars, hookah and spit tobacco. TRL is therefore a vital regulatory tool that enables localities to monitor tobacco sales, fund compliance efforts, and create effective penalty and suspension structures for repeated violations – it closes the gap in tobacco regulation that was left open by both the federal and state Tobacco 21 laws.



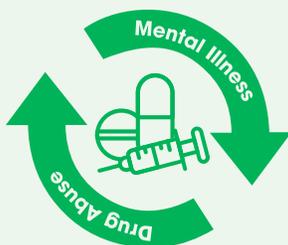
Tobacco products kill more than half a million Americans annually.



3.6 million middle-school and high-school kids use e-cigarettes (vape).



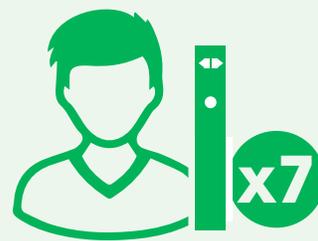
Adolescent vaping quadruples the risk of becoming a long-term smoker.



Youth nicotine addiction substantially increases risk of drug use and mental illness.



95% of current adult smokers began before the age of 21.



Teen vapers are up to 7 times more likely to get COVID-19 than non-e-cigarette users.

A Local Tobacco Retail License Will

The Preventing Tobacco Addiction Foundation has analyzed Ohio's statewide tobacco control laws to provide local advocates with a summary of the current landscape. This document highlights the opportunities and best practice methods that exist under Ohio statute in order for local jurisdictions to create a more robust and comprehensive system through the adoption of a local Tobacco Retailer Licensing Program.

PROTECT KIDS

- Reduces youth initiation to nicotine and tobacco through improved compliance with Tobacco 21 and other tobacco control initiatives.
- Provides foundational support for the implementation of other youth protections such as flavored product restrictions (including menthol), product discounts, tobacco-free pharmacies, mail-order/internet delivery regulation, and point-of-sale restrictions.
- Allows a municipality to regulate location, density, and types(s) of tobacco retailers permitted to operate in their jurisdiction.

HOLD RETAILERS ACCOUNTABLE

- Establishes a comprehensive list of retailers in the local community, allowing the jurisdiction to adequately monitor retailer compliance while creating a database that can be used for future tobacco control initiatives.
- Authorizes local health departments to inspect tobacco and vape shops and conduct essential compliance checks on a regular basis to ensure retailer compliance.
- Allows local health departments the ability to revoke or suspend a retailer license if they repeatedly violate age-of-sale or other regulations.

FUND ENFORCEMENT

- Supports the federal and Ohio Tobacco 21 laws by providing supplemental local enforcement through an annual license fee at no cost to the taxpayer.
- Creates a self-funding mechanism for administration, retailer education/training and comprehensive enforcement activity.

This document is the short-form, executive summary of "Best Practices In Tobacco Retail Licensing" available on the Tobacco21.org website. Further details and scientific citations are available there.