

## Raising legal age in Wayland for tobacco sales

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*WAYLAND - Wayland will have more stringent regulations on the sale of tobacco and nicotine delivery products, as well as smoking in workplaces and public spaces, starting Jan. 1, following unanimous approval by the Board of Health on Monday night.*

*The new regulation raising the minimum legal sales age to 21 is meant to reduce tobacco consumption among youth, particularly in view of the array of new colorfully packaged nicotine delivery products aimed at this age group.*

*The new workspace and public space restriction expands the commonwealth's Smoke-free Workplace Law, which went into effect in 2005, to prohibit all electronic smoking devices anywhere smoking is prohibited in workplaces.*

*On Monday night, the new sales regulations received pushback from local retailers, including Susan Reno and Cynthia Gingras of Honey Farms, and Joyce Androsiglio, who manages the Sunoco station on Main Street.*

*Reno argued that tobacco sales comprise 38 to 42 percent of their business. "What you are saying is that you don't trust the businesses to comply."*

*Androsiglio concurred. "This will hurt us," she said. "From what I've seen, tobacco represents about 60 percent of our sales. And it's not just tobacco. These people come in to buy drinks and snacks as well, and, if the new regulations are passed, they'll just take their business elsewhere. We have in-company compliance and, if a customer doesn't have an ID, they don't get tobacco products. There's no wiggle room."*

*In an email sent to the Board of Health, Stephen Ryan, executive director of the New England Convenience Store Association, asked the board to delay approving the new regulations until the Food and Drug Administration finalizes its study on the health impact of raising the legal age. He also noted the affected population can order tobacco products on the Internet.*

*Research findings and statistics supporting the new regulations, however, proved persuasive to board members.*

*The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported that electronic cigarette use among middle and high school students doubled between 2009 and 2011.*

*Nicotine solutions, which are consumed by electronic smoking devices, are sold in dozens of flavors such as cotton candy and bubble gum that appeal to youth.*

*Meanwhile, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services concluded that nicotine is as addictive as cocaine or heroin, and the Surgeon General found that nicotine exposure during adolescence may have lasting adverse consequences for brain development.*

*"Distributing cigarettes is so against the rationale of public health," said Cheryl Sbarra, an attorney with the Massachusetts Association of Health Boards. "An unreasonably dangerous product is part of a business plan."*

*"For all of us, it was stunning to see the array of products that were available," noted Board of Health Chairman Thomas Klem.*

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