

This legislative week in review provides updates on all of the legislative activity that occurred on tobacco-related bills during the past week, August 20-24.

AB 1617 (DeSaulnier – D, Martinez) Restricting Internet Sales of Tobacco Products

This bill would restrict Internet sales of cigarettes by making it unlawful for distributors to ship cigarettes to individuals in California and for common or contract carriers to knowingly transport cigarettes to individuals in California.

Status: On August 20, this bill was passed through the Senate Appropriations Committee under Rule 28.8. Under this rule, if the committee determines that there is no cost to the bill and that it will not result in a decrease of state revenues, it is reported to the Senate floor without a vote.

Next Step: Senate floor vote

SB 7 (Oropeza – D, Carson) Prohibiting Smoking in Cars with Minors

Senate Bill 7 would prohibit smoking in a motor vehicle, regardless of whether the vehicle is stationary or moving, in which a minor (17 years and younger) is present.

Status: On August 22, SB 7 was placed on the suspense file of the Assembly Appropriations Committee. Any bills that have a cost to the state over a certain amount are placed on the suspense file.

Next Step: The deadline for fiscal committees to report bills to the floor is August 31. On or before that date, the Assembly Appropriations Committee will hold a hearing to determine which bills make it out of the suspense file and onto the Assembly floor for a vote. Getting a bill out of the suspense file depends on a lot of different factors such as the cost of the bill, support of leadership and the Appropriations chairman, and how high a priority it is for the author.

SB 295 (Cogdill – R, Modesto) Definition of Untaxed Tobacco Product

This bill would clarify the definition on an untaxed tobacco product and apply this definition to all sections of the cigarette and tobacco products tax law.

Status: On August 22, the Assembly Appropriations Committee passed SB 295 by a vote of 16-0.

Next Step: Assembly floor vote

SB 624 (Padilla – D, Pacoima) Increasing STAKE Act Enforcement

The bill would allow local enforcement agencies to conduct random inspections using minors and to assess penalties to ensure retailer compliance with the STAKE Act without having to enter into an enforcement delegation contract with Department of Public Health as they are currently required to do.

Status: This legislation was amended on August 20. Changes that were made include inserting language to no longer require that funds collected in excess of \$300,000 go to the general fund but rather all funds go to the Sale of Tobacco to Minors Control Account, inserting language to encourage local agencies to share results and coordinate with the Department of Public Health, and removing language that would allow local agencies to enter into an enforcement delegation contract with the Department of Public Health and get reimbursed for costs under this agreement. On August 22, the Assembly Appropriations Committee passed SB 624 by a vote of 16-0.

Next Step: Assembly floor vote

Center for Tobacco Policy & Organizing, August 27, 2007

If you have questions about this analysis, please contact The Center's Policy Coordinator, Justin Garrett, at (916) 442-4299, ext. 233 or jgarrett@alac.org or Paul Knepprath, Vice President, Government Relations, American Lung Association of California, at (916) 442-4446, ext. 224 or pknepprath@alac.org.

Sources: Copies of the legislation outlined above and vote information may be obtained at <http://www.leginfo.ca.gov>.

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