
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 57 Session of
2013

INTRODUCED BY V. BROWN, CALTAGIRONE, COHEN, ROEBUCK, EVERETT,
KORTZ, TALLMAN, O'BRIEN, FABRIZIO, D. COSTA, SWANGER, ROCK,
THOMAS AND FRANKEL, FEBRUARY 4, 2013

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, FEBRUARY 4, 2013

A RESOLUTION

1 Supporting youth tobacco prevention initiatives.

2 WHEREAS, According to the United States Centers for Disease
3 Control and Prevention, the following statistics were reported
4 for 2009: 80% of adult smokers began smoking before 18 years of
5 age; 19.5% of high school students and 5.2% of middle school
6 students smoked one or more cigarettes in the previous month;
7 and 8.9% of high school students and 2.6% of middle school
8 students were current smokeless tobacco users; and

9 WHEREAS, Additional data from the Centers for Disease Control
10 and Prevention suggest that minors are now obtaining tobacco
11 products from a number of sources other than retail outlets,
12 such as through online purchases; and

13 WHEREAS, Although a steady decline in youth tobacco usage has
14 been evident, statistics can be further improved upon through
15 education, deterrent legislative measures and limiting access to
16 tobacco products; and

17 WHEREAS, Unfortunately, minors are not currently prohibited

1 from purchasing and consuming tobacco-derived products in a
2 number of states; and

3 WHEREAS, The prevalence of illegal purchases of tobacco and
4 tobacco-derived products by minors necessitates the prohibition
5 of underage possession of all tobacco products; and

6 WHEREAS, It is vital that legislators and educators identify
7 creative and effective ways to further influence and educate
8 minors to positively change the behavior and wellness of
9 America's youth; and

10 WHEREAS, Additionally, it is crucial to properly define
11 tobacco-derived products and electronic cigarettes in State
12 statutes and prohibit the purchase and possession by minors;
13 therefore be it

14 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives support and
15 encourage evidence-based youth tobacco prevention education and
16 recognize its importance as a meaningful part of health
17 education regarding the dangers of smoking and nicotine
18 addiction; and be it further

19 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives pass laws that
20 address not only the illegal sale of tobacco to minors, but also
21 the purchase and possession of tobacco products by minors,
22 including both traditional tobacco products as well as tobacco-
23 derived products.