



F R O M	Name & Title	Jacquelyn Duval-Harvey Interim Commissioner 	Health Department	 HEALTH DEPARTMENT BALTIMORE MARYLAND
	Agency Name & Address	Health Department 1001 E. Fayette Street Baltimore, Maryland 21201	MEMO	
	Subject	Council Bill 14-0371 – Electronic Smoking Devices		

To: President and Members  
of the City Council  
c/o 409 City Hall

May 15, 2014

The Baltimore City Health Department (BCHD) is pleased to have the opportunity to review Council Bill 14-0371 – Electronic Smoking Devices. The purpose of this bill is to extend existing laws prohibiting smoking and regulating the placement of tobacco products to electronic smoking devices. BCHD supports this bill because it is in line with the tenants of our comprehensive health policy agenda, Healthy Baltimore 2015. Tobacco use is the number one preventable cause of heart disease and is a major contributor to heart attacks, stroke, chronic lung disease and cancer. Cardiovascular disease (CVD) is the leading cause of death in Baltimore City, and smoking is one of the major risk factors for developing CVD.

According to a report from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), from 2011 to 2012 electronic cigarette use increased significantly among middle school (0.6 percent to 1.1 percent) and high school (1.5 percent to 2.8 percent) students. According to the CDC, nearly 90 percent of adult smokers in the United States began smoking by age 18. In Baltimore 21.1% of youth reported using tobacco in 2010 and 21.8% reported the initiation of tobacco products within the last year. According to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Cigarette smoking causes more than 480,000 deaths each year in the United States. This is about one in five deaths. Cigarette smoking increases risk for death from all causes in men and women. The 2012 National Youth Tobacco Survey (NYTS) found that in 2012, the prevalence of current tobacco product use among middle and high school students was 6.7 percent and 23.3 percent, respectively. After cigarettes, cigars were the second most commonly used tobacco product, with prevalence of use at 2.8 percent and 12.6 percent, respectively.

A study by the CDC found a dramatic increase in calls to poison centers for issues dealing with e-cigarettes – from one per month in September 2010 to 215 per month in February 2014. More than half of the calls involved young children under age five and about 42 percent of the calls involved people age 20 and older.

BCHD supports this legislation and appreciates the opportunity to discuss this important issue and will be present at the hearing to answer any questions the Council may have on this matter.

cc: Angela Gibson, Office of the Mayor  
Valerie Rogers, Chief of Staff, Department of Health  
Shannon Mace Heller, Interim Legislative Director, Department of Health

