

PROTECT YOUTH FROM VAPING AND NICOTINE

Please Support Solly's Law

HB 430 SB 318

Why This Matters

- **Financial Consequences:**
 - N.C. risks losing \$5 million in block grant funding for prevention, treatment, and recovery services.
 - Federal enforcement begins December 2025.
- **Youth Tobacco Use is Rising:**
 - North Carolina has seen a sharp increase in youth tobacco use, particularly e-cigarettes.
 - North Carolina ranks 6th in the nation for youth vaping
- **Early Addiction is Common:** 95% of tobacco users start before age 21.
- **Lack of Licensing:** N.C. is one of only 9 states without a tobacco retailer licensing system.
- **Licensing Protects Communities:**
 - Tracks where tobacco products are sold.
 - Holds non-compliant retailers accountable, protecting law-abiding businesses.
- **Prevents Youth Nicotine Addiction:** Helps curb e-cigarette and nicotine product use in schools.
- **Aligns State & Federal Law:**
 - The federal minimum tobacco sales age was raised to 21 in December 2019.
 - As of October 2024, 43 states have aligned with federal law—N.C. has not.

Proposed Legislation Will

- **Raise the Minimum Age:**
 - Prohibits the sale of tobacco products by individuals under 21.
 - Requires proof of age for all tobacco sales.
- **Establish a Tobacco Sales Permit System:** Retailers must obtain a permit from the N.C. Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) Commission to sell tobacco legally.
- **Strengthen Enforcement:**
 - ABC Commission gains authority to issue permits, impose sanctions, and enforce laws in collaboration with the Alcohol Law Enforcement (ALE) Division.
 - ALE agents and Commission employees can investigate and inspect tobacco retail locations.
- **Increase Compliance Requirements:** Retailers must display signage stating:
 - *"NC Law PROHIBITS the sale of tobacco products, vapor products, and components by persons under 21. Proof of age required."*
- **Set Legal Penalties:** Class 2 misdemeanor for selling or assisting in selling tobacco to anyone under 21.

