



JILL BILLINGS

STATE REPRESENTATIVE

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Rep. Billings Circulates Legislation to Address Youth Vaping in Wisconsin

Madison, Wis – Today, Representative Jill Billings (D-La Crosse), along with her colleagues, Representative Sondy Pope (D- Mt. Horeb) and Representative Robyn Vining (D-Wauwatosa), circulated a four-piece legislative package for co-sponsorship to address youth vapor product use, provide funding for a public health campaign, expand the indoor smoking ban to include vapor products, and require the licensure of vape shops.

“While public health efforts to reduce the use of conventional cigarettes over the past few decades have been largely successful, 1 in 5 high school students and 1 in 20 middle school students report that they are currently using e-cigarettes. This bill package will build upon and bolster ongoing efforts to prevent youth exposure to the health risks of vaping.”

“Unfortunately, many people, young people especially, who wouldn’t consider smoking cigarettes, believe that vaping is a much less harmful alternative. However, as we have learned, e-cigarettes contain dangerous and cancer-causing chemicals, in addition to alarming amounts of nicotine that can make them as addictive as regular cigarettes. Recent data shows that that since 2014, e-cigarettes have been the most commonly used nicotine product among U.S. youths. The research further indicates that teens who use e-cigarettes are three times as likely to become cigarette smokers later in life.”

“In addition to legislation that prohibits vaping on school premises and in indoor spaces, this package also contains a requirement for local vape shops to obtain a cigarette and tobacco products retailer license. This proposal provides the necessary licensing requirements so that municipalities can enforce proper business practices by these retailers, like they currently do for cigarette and tobacco product retailers.”

LRB 5569 prohibits vaping on school premises.

LRB 5570 revises the definition of “smoking” for purposes of the general prohibition under current law against smoking in indoor locations. The bill specifies that “smoking” includes inhaling or exhaling an aerosolized or vaporized liquid or other substance from an “electronic smoking device.”

LRB 5577 provides additional funding to the Department of Health Services to develop and carry out a public health campaign aimed at the prevention of initiation of tobacco and electronic cigarette use.

LRB 5582 requires a person who sells electronic smoking devices to obtain a cigarette and tobacco products retailer license. Specifically, the bill requires a retailer who sells or offers for sale electronic smoking devices to obtain an annual license from the clerk of the city, village, or town where the retailer is located.

Rep. Jill Billings serves the 95th District in the Wisconsin State Assembly. The 95th district includes all of the city of La Crosse, town of Campbell and a portion of the town of Shelby.

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