

**TOWNSHIP OF ALMONT  
LAPEER COUNTY, MICHIGAN  
ORDINANCE NO. 108**

**MINOR IN POSSESSION OF TOBACCO AND VAPOR PRODUCTS ORDINANCE**

**TITLE**

An Ordinance establishing restrictions on the possession of tobacco by minors and the furnishing of tobacco to minors in conformance with state law, and to prohibit the possession of vapor products by minors and the furnishing of vapor products to minors, and repealing all ordinances and/or resolutions in conflict therewith.

**THE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF THE TOWNSHIP OF ALMONT, COUNTY OF LAPEER, MICHIGAN, ORDAINS:**

**SECTION 1. TITLE.**

This Ordinance shall be known and cited as the "Almont Township Minor in Possession of Tobacco Products and Vapor Products Ordinance".

**SECTION 2. PURPOSE AND FINDINGS.**

The purpose of this Ordinance is to protect the public health, safety and welfare of the property and persons in the Township by prohibiting persons under eighteen (18) years of age from possessing tobacco products and vapor products, and prohibiting the sale of tobacco products and vapor products to persons under eighteen (18) years of age.

Persons under age eighteen (18) are prohibited by law from purchasing or possessing cigarettes and other tobacco products, and retailers are prohibited from selling them to minors. There are new tobacco-less products, however, commonly referred to as "electronic cigarettes," "e-cigarettes", "e-cigars", "e-cigarillos", "e-pipes", "e-hookahs", or "electronic nicotine delivery systems", which allow the user to simulate cigarette smoking and ingest nicotine. These products may be purchased by minors and are being marketed without age restrictions or health warnings and come in different flavors that appeal to young people. E-cigarettes, and similar devices, are a relatively new nicotine delivery system. While devices vary in their appearance and specific method of operation, they have a few basic elements in common. A solution of water, dissolved nicotine, and other ingredients (usually flavoring) is heated with a heating element (usually battery-powered). This vaporizes the nicotine solution, which passes into a mouthpiece and is inhaled in a manner similar to cigarette smoking. Often, glycerol or propylene glycol is added to the solution to give the appearance of smoke when the solution is vaporized. The concentration of nicotine contained in the solution can be customized by the retailer to the buyer's specifications, and many manufacturers make nicotine-free solutions.

The production and distribution of e-cigarettes is not currently regulated by federal or state authorities, and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration has not completed testing of these

products. But, initial studies by the FDA have determined that e-cigarettes can increase nicotine addition among young people and contain chemical ingredients known to be harmful, which may expose users and the public to potential health risks.

The use of e-cigarettes and similar devices has increased significantly in recent years, as evidenced by the fact that:

- Between 2011 and 2012 the percentage of all youth in grades 6 to 12 who had tried electronic smoking devices doubled;
- 6.8% of all youth between 6<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade report trying electronic smoking devices;
- 10% of high school students have tried electronic smoking devices;
- 9.3% of youth who have used electronic smoking devices have never smoked conventional cigarettes; and
- Between 2010 and 2011, rates of both awareness and use of unregulated electronic smoking devices by adults also increased significantly.

Existing studies on electronic smoking devices' vapor emissions and cartridge contents have found a number of dangerous substances including:

- Chemicals known to cause cancer such as formaldehyde, acetaldehyde, lead, nickel, and chromium;
- PM<sub>2.5</sub>, acrolein, tin, toluene, and aluminum, which are associated with a range of negative health effects such as skin, eye, and respiratory irritation, neurological effects, damage to reproductive systems, and even premature death from hearts attacks and stroke;
- Inconsistent labeling of nicotine levels in electronic smoking device products; and
- In one instance, diethylene glycol, an ingredient used in antifreeze and toxic to humans.

Several studies have concluded that exposure to vapor from electronic smoking devices may cause passive or secondhand vaping.

Some cartridges used by electronic smoking devices can be re-filled with liquid nicotine solution, creating the potential for exposure to dangerous concentrations of nicotine, and as a result:

- In one instance, diethylene glycol, an ingredient used in antifreeze and toxic to humans.

- Poisonings from electric smoking devices have increased dramatically in the last three and a half years from “one (a month) in September 2010 to 215 a month in February 2014”;
- Analysis of reports of poisonings from electronic smoking devices finds that calls reporting exposure to electronic smoking devices are much more likely to involve adverse health effects when compared to calls reporting exposure to conventional cigarettes.

Clinical studies about the safety and efficacy of these products have not been submitted to the FDA for the over 400 brands of electronic smoking devices that are on the market and for this reason, consumers currently have no way of knowing:

- Whether electronic smoking devices are safe;
- What types of concentrations of potentially harmful chemicals the products contain; and
- What does of nicotine the products deliver.

The World Health Organization has strongly advised consumers against the use of electronic smoking devices until they are “deemed safe and effective and of acceptable quality by a competent national regulatory body”.

The World Medical Association has determined that electronic smoking devices “are not comparable to scientifically-proven methods of smoking cessation” and that “neither their value as therapeutic aids for smoking cessation nor their safety as cigarette replacements is established”.

A study published in the Journal of Environmental and Public Health suggests that electronic smoking devices “may have the capacity to ‘re-normalize’ tobacco use in a demographic that has had significant denormalization of tobacco use previously”.

Electronic smoking devices often mimic conventional tobacco products in shape, size, and color, with the user exhaling a smoke-like vapor similar in appearance to the exhaled smoke from cigarettes and other conventional tobacco products.

The use of electronic smoking devices in smoke-free locations threatens to undermine compliance with smoking regulations and reverse the progress that has been made in establishing a social norm that smoking is not permitted in public places and places of employment.

In September of 2013, 40 state attorneys general (including Michigan’s) signed a letter to the Commission of the United States Food and Drug Administration, outlining their concerns with e-cigarettes and requesting the implementation of regulations that would address the advertising, ingredients, and sale to minors of e-cigarettes at the federal level.

It is the intent of the Township Board, in enacting this Ordinance, to provide for the public health, safety and welfare by facilitating uniform and consistent enforcement of smoke-free air laws; by reducing the potential for re-normalizing smoking in public places and places of employment; by reducing the potential for children to associate the use of electronic smoking devices with a normative or health lifestyle; and by prohibiting the sale or distribution of electronic smoking devices to minors.

Therefore, the Almont Township Board determines that prohibiting the sale, giving, or furnishing of e-cigarettes to minors and prohibiting the purchase, possession or use of e-cigarettes by minors is in the Township's best interests and will promote the public health, safety and welfare. For purposes of this Ordinance, the Township is adopting the term "Vapor Product" to address e-cigarettes and all similar devices, because this term has been defined by the Michigan House and Senate in Senate Bills 667 and 668, enrolled in June of 2014, as part of proposed amendments to the Youth Tobacco Act, being Public Act 31 of 195.

### **SECTION 3. ENABLING AUTHORITY.**

This article is adopted in accordance with, and pursuant to, Act No. 246 of the Public Acts of Michigan of 1945, as amended, and Act No. 31 of the Public Acts of Michigan of 1915, as amended.

### **SECTION 4. DEFINITIONS.**

For the purpose of construction and application of this article, the following definitions shall apply:

*Minor* shall mean an individual who is less than 18 years of age.

*Person who sells vapor products at retail* shall mean a person whose ordinary course of business consists, in whole or in part, of the retail sale of vapor products.

*Person who sells tobacco products at retail* shall mean a person whose ordinary course of business consists, in whole or in part, of the retail sale of tobacco products subject to state sales tax.

*Possession of tobacco product* shall mean either actual physical control of the tobacco product without necessarily owning that product or the right to control the tobacco product even though it is in a different room or place than where the person is physically located.

*Public place* shall mean a public street, sidewalk, or park or any area open to the general public in a publicly owned or operated building or premises, or in a public place of business.

*Tobacco product* shall mean a product that contains tobacco and is intended for human consumption, including but not limited to cigarettes, non-cigarette smoking tobacco, or

smokeless tobacco, as those terms are defined in Section 2 of the Tobacco Products Tax Act, and cigars. Tobacco product does not include a vapor product or a product regulated as a drug or device by the United States Food and drug Administration.

*Use a tobacco product or vapor product* shall mean to smoke, chew, suck, inhale, or otherwise consume a tobacco product or vapor product.

*Vapor product* means a noncombustible product containing nicotine that employs a heating element, power source, electronic circuit, or other electronic, chemical, or mechanical means, regardless of shape or size, that can be used to produce vapor from nicotine in a solution or other form. Vapor product includes an electronic cigarette, electronic cigar, electronic cigarillo, electronic pipe, or similar product or device and a vapor cartridge or other container of nicotine in a solution or other form that is intended to be used with or in an electronic cigarette, electronic cigar, electronic cigarillo, electronic pipe, or similar product or device. Vapor product does not include a product regulated as a drug or device by the United States Food and drug Administration.

## **SECTION 5. PROHIBITED CONDUCT.**

- (a) Subject to subsection (c), a minor shall not do any of the following:
- (1) Purchase or attempt to purchase a tobacco product or vapor product.
  - (2) Possess or attempt to possess a tobacco product or vapor product.
  - (3) Use a tobacco product or vapor product in a public place.
  - (4) Present or offer to an individual a purported proof of age that is false, fraudulent, or not actually his or her own proof of age for the purpose of purchasing, attempting to purchase, possessing, or attempting to possess a tobacco product or vapor product.
- (b) An individual who violates subsection (a) is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine of not more than \$50.00 for each violation. Pursuant to a probation order, the court may also require participation in a health promotion and risk reduction assessment program. An individual who is ordered to participate in a health promotion and risk reduction assessment program under this subsection is responsible for the costs of participating in the program. In addition, an individual who violates subsection (a) is subject to the following:
- (1) For the first violation, the court may order the individual to do 1 of the following:
    - (i) Perform not more than 16 hours of community service in a hospice, nursing home, or long-term care facility;

- (ii) Participate in a health promotion and risk reduction program, as described in this subsection.
  - (2) For a second violation, in addition to participation in a health promotion and risk reduction program, the court may order the individual to perform not more than 32 hours of community service in a hospice, nursing home, or long-term care facility.
  - (3) For a third or subsequent violation, in addition to participation in a health promotion and risk reduction program, the court may order the individual to perform not more than 48 hours of community service in a hospice, nursing home, or long-term care facility.
- (c) Subsection (a) does not apply to a minor participating in any of the following:
- (1) An undercover operation in which the minor purchases or receives a tobacco product or vapor product under the direction of the minor's employer and with the prior approval of the local prosecutor's office as a part of an employer-sponsored internal enforcement action.
  - (2) An undercover operation in which the minor purchases or receives a tobacco product or vapor product under the direction of the state police or a local police agency as part of an enforcement action, unless the initial or contemporaneous purchase or receipt of the tobacco product or vapor product by the minor was not under the direction of the state police or the local agency and was not part of the undercover operation.
  - (3) Compliance checks in which the minor attempts to purchase tobacco products for the purpose of satisfying federal substance abuse block grant youth tobacco access requirements, if the compliance checks are conducted under the direction of a substance abuse coordinating agency as defined in the Public Health Code, 1978 PA 368, MCL 333.6103, and with the prior approval of the state police or local police agency.
- (d) Subsection (a) does not apply to the handling or transportation of a tobacco product or vapor product by a minor under the terms of that minor's employment.
- (e) This section does not prohibit an individual from being charged with, convicted of, or sentenced for any other violation of law that arises out of the violation of subsection (a).

State law reference – MCL 722.641 *et seq.*

## **SECTION 6. SALE OF INDIVIDUAL CIGARETTES.**

- (a) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (b), a person who sells tobacco products at retail shall not sell a cigarette separately from its package.

- (b) Subsection (a) does not apply to a person who sells tobacco products at retail in a tobacco specialty retail store or other store that deals exclusively in the sale of tobacco products and smoking paraphernalia.
- (c) A person who violates subsection (a) is guilty of a misdemeanor, punishable by a fine of not more than \$500.00 for each offense.

State law reference – MCL 722.642a.

## **SECTION 7. FURNISHING TO MINORS.**

- (a) A person shall not sell, give, or furnish a tobacco product or vapor product to a minor, including, but not limited to, through a vending machine. A person who violates this subsection or subsection (h) is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine of not more than \$50.00 for each violation.
- (b) A person who sells tobacco products or vapor products at retail shall post, in a place close to the point of sale and conspicuous to both employees and customers, a sign that includes the following statement:

“The purchase of a tobacco product or vapor product by a minor under 18 years of age and the provision of a tobacco product or vapor product to a minor are prohibited by law. A minor who unlawfully purchases or uses a tobacco product or vapor product is subject to criminal penalties.”
- (c) If the sign required under subsection (b) is more than 6 feet from the point of sale, it shall be 5-1/2 inches by 8-1/2 inches and the statement required under subsection (b) shall be printed in 36-point boldfaced type. If the sign required under subsection (b) is 6 feet or less from the point of sale, it shall be 2 inches by 4 inches and the statement required under subsection (b) shall be printed in 20-point boldfaced type.
- (d) The signs required by subsection (c) may be procured from the department of community health pursuant to state law. The seller may add the “vapor product” language to the sign if the department of community health does not or will not include it.
- (e) Subsection (a) does not apply to the handling or transportation of a tobacco product or vapor product by a minor under the terms of the minor’s employment.
- (f) Before selling, offering for sale, giving, or furnishing a vapor product to an individual, a person shall verify that the individual is at least 18 years of age by doing 1 of the following:
  - (1) If the individual appears to be under 27 years of age, examining a government-issued photographic identification that establishes that the individual is at least 18 years of age.

- (2) For sales made by the internet or other remote sales method, performing an age verification through an independent, third-party age verification service that compares information available from a commercially available database, or aggregate of databases, that are regularly used by government agencies and businesses for the purpose of age and identity verification to the personal information entered by the individual during the ordering process that establishes that the individual is 18 years of age or older.

State law reference – MCL 722.641.

**SECTION 8. REPEALING OF CONFLICTING PROVISIONS**

All resolutions, ordinances or parts thereof in conflict with the provisions of this Ordinance are to the extent of such conflict hereby repealed.

**SECTION 9. SEVERABILITY**

If any section, paragraph, clause or provision of this Ordinance is for any reason held to be invalid or unconstitutional, the invalidity or unconstitutionality of such section, paragraph, clause or provision shall not affect any of the remaining provisions of this Ordinance.

**SECTION 10. PUBLICATION**

A true copy of this Ordinance or summary thereof shall be published in the Tri City Times, a newspaper of general circulation in the Township of Almont, within 30 days after its adoption. A complete copy of the Ordinance is available for inspection by the public at the Township Clerk's office.

**SECTION 11. EFFECTIVE DATE**

This Ordinance shall take effect 30 days from and after the publication of a true copy or summary thereof as provided in Section 10.



CERTIFICATE OF TOWNSHIP CLERK

I hereby certify that the foregoing constitutes a true and complete copy of an Ordinance duly adopted by the Township Board of Almont Township, Macomb County, Michigan, at a meeting held on the 12<sup>th</sup> day of Nov, 2018.

I hereby further certify that the following Township Board members were present at the meeting: Hoffner, Kudsin, Streeter, Groesbeck, Stroup, Hoffa  
and the following Township Board Members were absent: Bowman

I further certify that Member Kudsin moved for the adoption of the Ordinance, and that motion was supported by Member Streeter.

I further certify that the following Township Board Members voted for the adoption of the Ordinance: Hoffner, Kudsin, Stroup, Streeter, Groesbeck, Hoffa.

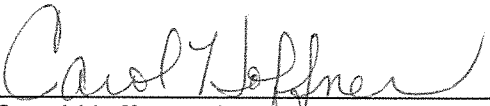
and that the following Township Board members voted against adoption of the Ordinance:

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Carol Hoffner  
Carol Hoffner, Clerk  
Township of Almont

**CERTIFICATE OF PUBLICATION**

I, the undersigned Township Clerk of the Township of Almont, do hereby certify that on Nov. 21 2018, the foregoing Ordinance, or Summary thereof, was duly published in the Tri City Times a newspaper having general circulation within the Township of Almont.

  
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Carol Hoffner, Clerk  
Township of Almont