

## Legislative Update: New Bills for 2015 Session January 30, 2015

With the deadline to introduce new bills for the 2015 session of the California Legislature less than a month away, four tobacco-related bills are already officially on the table. These bills cover a variety of issues, including regulation of electronic cigarettes, raising the purchase age of tobacco and single-use filters.

The key deadlines for the 2015 legislative session are February 27 (deadline to introduce bills), June 5 (deadline for bills to pass the full house they were introduced in) and September 11 (end of the legislative session and the deadline for all bills to be passed and sent to the Governor).

Below is the legislative update with summaries and status updates for the new tobacco-related bills that have been introduced to date. This update also contains background information for specific bills and indicates which bills are sponsored by the major voluntary health organizations (i.e., American Lung Association in California, American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network and American Heart Association).



### **AB 48 (Stone – D, Santa Cruz) – Cigarettes: Single-use Filters**

This bill would prohibit the sale of cigarettes that contain a single use filter made of any material, including cellulose acetate, or any organic or biodegradable material.

**Status:** AB 48 has been referred to the Assembly Committee on Governmental Organization and the Assembly Committee on Health and is awaiting a hearing date.

### **SB 24 (Hill – D, San Mateo) – STAKE Act: Electronic Cigarettes**

Senate Bill 24 would add electronic cigarettes to the STAKE Act and require that retailers selling electronic cigarettes apply for a license from the Board of Equalization. This bill also requires electronic cigarettes cartridges to be in child-proof packaging. This bill does not define electronic cigarettes as a tobacco product.

**Background:** The American Lung Association in California, American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network, and American Heart Association are opposed to this bill unless it is amended.

**Status:** SB 24 has been referred to the Senate Committee on Health and is awaiting a hearing date.

### **SB 140 (Leno – D, San Francisco) – Electronic Cigarettes**

Senate Bill 140 would change the STAKE Act's definition of tobacco products to include electronic devices, such as electronic cigarettes. SB 140 would also include electronic cigarettes in California's smokefree laws, prohibiting their use at workplaces, schools, daycares, restaurants, bars, hospitals and public transportation.

**Background:** The American Lung Association in California is co-sponsoring this bill with the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network and American Heart Association.

**Status:** SB 140 has not yet been referred to a committee.

**SB 151 (Hernandez – D, West Covina) – Tobacco Products: Minimum Legal Age**

This bill will raise the legal minimum smoking age from 18 to 21 and severely limit teen access to tobacco products.

**Background:** The American Lung Association in California, American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network, and American Heart Association support this bill.

**Status:** SB 151 has not yet been referred to a committee.

The Center's Bill Tracker ([www.center4tobaccopolicy.org/bill-tracker/](http://www.center4tobaccopolicy.org/bill-tracker/)) can be used to track all bills throughout the 2015-2016 legislative session. The Bill Tracker contains up-to-date information with full summaries, status updates and other information about pertinent bills introduced in 2015.

The American Lung Association in California Center for Tobacco Policy & Organizing will be following bills and providing updates as the session progresses. You can find those updates [here](#).

*Center for Tobacco Policy & Organizing, January 30, 2015*

*If you have questions about this analysis, please contact Samantha Pellon ([Samantha.Pellon@lung.org](mailto:Samantha.Pellon@lung.org)) or Lindsey Freitas ([lindsey.freitas@lung.org](mailto:lindsey.freitas@lung.org)) or Kimberly Amazeen ([Kimberly.Amazeen@lung.org](mailto:Kimberly.Amazeen@lung.org)) at (916) 554-5864 (LUNG).*

*Sources: Copies of the legislation outlined above and vote information may be obtained at [www.leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/](http://www.leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/).*