



NORTH DAKOTANS AGREE

We can do more to protect youth from vaping nicotine and commercial tobacco addiction

Raise the price of commercial tobacco products

The tobacco industry uses tactics like low prices, easy-to-hide devices, youth-friendly flavors and high levels of nicotine to addict the next generation and secure future profits.

Tobacco tax increases are one of the most effective ways to reduce smoking and other tobacco use, especially among youth. Nationally, every 10% increase in cigarette prices reduces youth smoking by about 7% and overall cigarette consumption by about 4%.

Cheap tobacco does not benefit any community

At only \$0.44 per pack, North Dakota's tax on cigarettes ranks near dead last - 49th in the country and much lower than the average state cigarette tax at \$1.97 per pack. North Dakota has not raised the tax on cigarettes since 1993.

North Dakota does not tax e-cigarettes or nicotine pouches as tobacco products, and the tax rate on other tobacco products (like chewing tobacco and snuff) is also very low. These products are fueling North Dakota's youth tobacco and nicotine problem. **It's time to close the loophole and tax all commercial tobacco products.**

Nicotine is a highly addictive chemical in tobacco products. Nicotine can harm adolescent brain development and affect memory and learning. We have a shared responsibility to keep these dangerous and addictive products away from children. **The tobacco industry knows that cheap tobacco retains current users and lures more young people into a lifetime of addiction.**



The bill – HB 1570

Rep. Steiner, Sen. Bekkedahl, Sen. Boschee, Sen. Larson, Sen. Luick, Rep. McLeod, Rep. Mitskog, Sen. Myrdal, Rep. Nelson, Rep. S. Olson

HB 1570 authored by Representative Steiner and a team of bipartisan lawmakers aims to modernize and improve how North Dakota taxes commercial tobacco products. Specifically the bill will:

- ➔ Increase the tax on cigarettes by \$1.09 per pack. The total new tax would be \$1.53 per pack equal to South Dakota's tax.
- ➔ Increase the tax on each can of snuff from \$0.60 per ounce to \$1.96 per ounce.
- ➔ Increase the tax on chewing tobacco from \$0.16 per ounce to \$0.52 per ounce.
- ➔ Implement a tax on electronic smoking devices (e.g., e-cigarettes and nicotine vapes) and alternative tobacco products (e.g., pouches and gels) at 56% of the wholesale price.
- ➔ Dedicate a portion of the tobacco tax revenue to mental health services.

The health and economic benefits are significant

HB 1570 will reduce costs, improve health, and save lives. Specifically, a \$1.09 per pack increase in the price of cigarettes in North Dakota would:

- ➔ Prevent 500 youth from becoming adults who smoke.
- ➔ Encourage 1,700 adults who smoke to quit.
- ➔ Save the state \$320,000 in Medicaid spending over the next 5 years.
- ➔ Save the state \$28.55 million in long-term health care costs.
- ➔ Prevent 400 smoking-caused premature deaths.
- ➔ Generate \$24.15 million in new annual revenue.

Stand Up for Youth – ND is a growing coalition of community, state and national organizations working to increase the price of all tobacco products in North Dakota to protect youth, reduce smoking rates, lower healthcare costs and save lives. Our members include: American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network, American College of Cardiology, American Heart Association, American Lung Association, Bismarck Tobacco Free Coalition, Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids, Community HealthCare Association of the Dakotas, KIDS COUNT North Dakota, North Dakota Medical Association North Dakota Public Health Association, Preventing Tobacco Addiction Foundation, Tobacco Free North Dakota.

This factsheet refers to tobacco products that are made and sold by tobacco companies. It does not include traditional tobacco used by Indigenous groups for religious or ceremonial purposes.

Sources: American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network, Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Economics for Health