

ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION No. 119

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 25, 2020

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman NANCY J. PINKIN

District 18 (Middlesex)

SYNOPSIS

Urges enactment of “Reversing the Youth Tobacco Epidemic Act of 2019.”

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 **AN ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION** urging the United States Congress to
2 enact the “Reversing the Youth Tobacco Epidemic Act of 2019.”
3
4 **WHEREAS**, Tobacco product use starts and is established primarily
5 during adolescence. Nearly nine out of 10 adults who smoke, first
6 start using tobacco products by the age of 18; and
7 **WHEREAS**, Each day in the United State, about 2,000 youth under the
8 age of 18 smoke their first cigarette, and more than 300 of those
9 youth become daily cigarette smokers. Each year in New Jersey,
10 approximately 3,000 youth under the age of 18 become smokers;
11 and
12 **WHEREAS**, According to the federal Food and Drug Administration
13 and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, between 2017
14 and 2018, there was a forty-eight percent increase in electronic
15 cigarette use by middle school students, and a seventy-eight percent
16 increase among high school students; and
17 **WHEREAS**, Flavoring in tobacco products can make tobacco use more
18 appealing to youth. In 2014, seventy-three percent of high school
19 students and fifty-six percent of middle school students who used
20 tobacco products reported using a flavored tobacco product during
21 that time; and
22 **WHEREAS**, The recent increase in the use of electronic cigarettes is
23 driving increases in tobacco product use among young people; and
24 **WHEREAS**, The number of middle and high school students using
25 electronic cigarettes rose from 2.1 million in 2017 to 3.6 million in
26 2018- a difference of about 1.5 million youth; and
27 **WHEREAS**, In 2018, nearly one in every 20 middle school students
28 (4.9 percent) and nearly one in every five high school students (20.8
29 percent) reported they used electronic cigarettes; and
30 **WHEREAS**, During the same time period, cigarette smoking among
31 middle and high school students decreased; and
32 **WHEREAS**, In 2018, one in every 50 middle school students (1.8
33 percent) and two in 25 high school students (8.1 percent) reported
34 they smoked cigarettes; and
35 **WHEREAS**, Although the use of cigarettes has decreased among youth
36 in the United States, many use multiple tobacco products, including
37 cigars smokeless tobacco, and pipe tobacco; and
38 **WHEREAS**, Young people who use two or more tobacco products are
39 at a higher risk of developing nicotine dependence and continuing
40 the use of tobacco products into adulthood; and
41 **WHEREAS**, In April of 2019, Representative Frank Pallone Jr. (New
42 Jersey) introduced the “Reversing the Youth Tobacco Epidemic Act
43 of 2019” (H.R.2339);” and
44 **WHEREAS**, The federal legislation: prohibits the sale of flavored
45 tobacco products that appeal to youth, including flavored electronic
46 cigarettes, flavored cigars, and menthol cigarettes; raises the
47 minimum age for purchasing tobacco products to 21 years of age;
48 prohibits the online sales of tobacco products; and extends the

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1 marketing restrictions the Food and Drug Administration currently
2 applies to cigarettes and smokeless tobacco products to all tobacco
3 products; and

4 **WHEREAS**, National, state, and local program activities have been
5 shown to reduce and prevent youth tobacco product use; and

6 **WHEREAS**, The enactment of the “Reversing the Youth Tobacco
7 Epidemic Act of 2019” (H.R.2339) would address the current youth
8 electronic cigarette epidemic threatening to undermine the progress
9 that has been made in reducing youth cigarette use, and would
10 reduce and prevent youth from using other tobacco products; now,
11 therefore,

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13 **BE IT RESOLVED** by the General Assembly of the State of New
14 Jersey:

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16 1. This House respectfully urges the enactment of the “Reversing
17 the Youth Tobacco Epidemic Act of 2019” (H.R.2339) in order to
18 address the current youth electronic cigarette epidemic threatening to
19 undermine the progress that has been made in reducing youth cigarette
20 use, and to reduce and prevent youth from using other tobacco
21 products.

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23 2. Copies of this resolution, as filed with the Secretary of State,
24 shall be transmitted by the Clerk of the Assembly General to the
25 President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States
26 House of Representatives, and every member of the New Jersey
27 Congressional delegation.

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30 STATEMENT

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32 This resolution urges the enactment of the “Reversing the Youth
33 Tobacco Epidemic Act of 2019” (H.R.2339) in order to address the
34 current youth electronic cigarette epidemic threatening to undermine
35 the progress that has been made in reducing youth cigarette use, and to
36 reduce and prevent youth from using other tobacco products.