

Crete, Andrea

From: Kristen Hoag <khoag@belchertownps.org>
Sent: Tuesday, November 26, 2024 5:31 PM
To: Crete, Andrea; Alene Motta
Subject: Fwd: Mass. bill would prohibit tobacco sales to anyone born after specific date - masslive.com

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FYI. This is great news!!

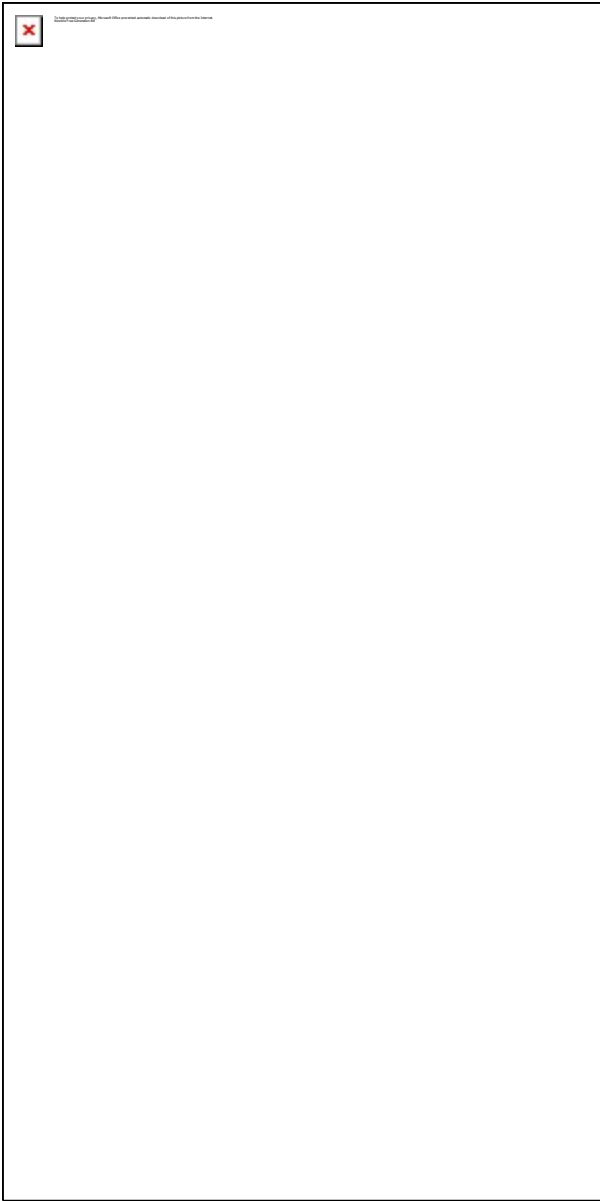
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From: Kevin Pacunas <kevinpacunas@gmail.com>
Date: Mon, Nov 25, 2024, 11:50 PM
Subject: Mass. bill would prohibit tobacco sales to anyone born after specific date - [masslive.com](https://www.masslive.com)
To: Kristen Hoag <khoag@belchertownps.org>

<https://www.masslive.com/politics/2024/11/mass-bill-would-prohibit-tobacco-sales-to-anyone-born-after-specific-date.html>

Mass. bill would prohibit tobacco sales to anyone born after specific date

- [Alvin Buyinza | ABuyinza@masslive.com](#) Published: Nov. 25, 2024, 6:49 p.m.



Supporters of the Nicotine-Free Generation Bill pose for a photo inside the Massachusetts State House on Nov. 25, 2024. The new bill, which will be filed at the start of the 2025-2026 legislative year, aims to ban the sale of nicotine and tobacco products to anyone who is born after a certain date. Backers of the bill say they are trying to protect future generations from the harms of nicotine addiction. Alvin Buyinza

Three state lawmakers said they are planning to file a bill that would prohibit the sale of tobacco or nicotine products to anyone born after a specific date.

The Nicotine Free Generation Bill would replace the state's current law that prohibits the sale of nicotine or tobacco to anyone under the age of 21.

State Representative Tommy Vitolo, D-15th Norfolk, who plans to file the bill with State Sen. Jason Lewis, D-5th Middlesex, and Rep. Kate Lipper-Garabedian, D-32nd

Middlesex, said that the legislation would protect future generations from nicotine addiction while ensuring older people could still have the right to smoke.

“This legislation treats everyone fairly,” Vitolo said at the Massachusetts State House. “Those who are not old enough now to obtain nicotine products will never be old enough to buy them in Massachusetts. Those who are old enough today will always be old enough.”

The bill comes on the heels of similar work done by the state to get tobacco out of the hands of young people.

In 2019, Massachusetts banned the sale of all flavored tobacco products including menthol cigarettes. Later in 2021, Brookline became the first municipality in the U.S. to pass a bylaw prohibiting the sale of nicotine products to anyone born after Jan. 1, 2000.

After Massachusetts banned the sale of menthol cigarettes, tobacco smuggling went up, according to a report from the [Massachusetts State Multi-Agency Illegal Tobacco Task Force](#).

When asked whether this new bill would also lead to cigarette smuggling, Vitolo acknowledged that it wouldn’t be “100 percent effective.”

“If we’re only 96 percent effective — if 24 out of 25 young people who would have otherwise become addicted to nicotine aren’t, I’ll celebrate that,” he said.

Sent from my phone