



Shaun McAuliffe <smcauliffe@hopkintonma.gov>

NFG and Zin (Zin Like) Ban

5 messages

Shaun McAuliffe <smcauliffe@hopkintonma.gov>
To: Lisa S <lstevensgoodnight@mma.org>

Thu, Feb 13, 2025 at 10:58 AM

Good morning Lisa,

Hopkinton intends to move forward with NFG and another update of our tobacco regulations. In addition, I have been asked to consider a ban on nicotine lozenges, pouches, etc.

I've been wrestling with the best way to approach this ban and am considering the following approach:

- Institute a ban on all retail food products, lozenges, chips and pouches containing neonicotinoids, organophosphates, organochlorides, pyrethroids of fungicides at a concentration sufficient, above 3 mg per dose, once absorbed through the mucous membranes of the mouth to cause an increased heart rate, blood pressure and breathing rate after a single dose and intoxication, poisoning or death if multiple doses are consumed at a single setting.

The thought being that it could be easier to ban a pesticide food additive than nicotine in general.

Thoughts?

--

Shaun McAuliffe, RS, MPH

Health Director

Town of Hopkinton

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(508) 497-9725

Lisa S <lstevensgoodnight@mma.org>
To: Shaun McAuliffe <smcauliffe@hopkintonma.gov>

Thu, Feb 13, 2025 at 12:35 PM

Hi Shawn,

Great to hear that about Hopkinton, we're seeing a dramatic increase in the use of oral nicotine pouches.

Attached are the most recent model regulations the TA providers have drafted, which include two options for regulating oral nicotine pouches:

1. restricting the strength of nicotine in a pouch to either 3mg or 6 mg; and/or
2. restricting oral nicotine pouches to adult only retail tobacco stores.

I am happy to work with you to draft language to fully prohibit the sale of oral nicotine pouches, the only reason that I don't already have such language is because Hopkinton would be the first to address this product in this way. A heads up, the industry is investing heavily in these new products and therefore you and the board should be prepared for some industry push back, I recommend educating the board ahead of time about the specifics around oral nicotine pouches so they fully understand the issue. We are finalizing talking points for the pouches and I will forward the final guidance to you as soon as it's approved.

Lozenges and similar products should be prohibited under the food code, but I want to check with Cheryl about that since that is more her area of expertise. I have some time tomorrow morning before 11 and afternoon after 2:30 if you would like to set up a call to discuss this further.

Lisa M. Goodnight, Esq.

Tobacco Control Director

(She/Her/Hers)

Tel: (617)933-1669 ext 152

Massachusetts Municipal Association

[3 Center Plaza, Suite 610](#)[Boston, MA 02108](#)

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Model Tobacco Sales Reg 1.6.25.docx
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Shaun McAuliffe <smcauliffe@hopkintonma.gov>
To: Lisa S <lstevensgoodnight@mma.org>

Thu, Feb 13, 2025 at 2:58 PM

Thank you Lisa,

I'd have no problem restricting them to adult only tobacco shops, as I have none. Pesticides are a sensitive topic here. As such, I saw the pesticide angle as an option. I don't have the legal funds to mount an all out legal challenge against the industry. Here is a stupid question, Zins and others are 21+, correct?

There are a growing number of athletes that have been turning to the pouches. They are a focus of ours.

I'm going to start drafting our NFG. I would love all the assistance that I can get. I've already got a rather full plate.

Sincerely,

Shaun McAuliffe
Health Director
Hopkinton

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Lisa S <lstevensgoodnight@mma.org>
To: Shaun McAuliffe <smcauliffe@hopkintonma.gov>

Wed, Feb 19, 2025 at 12:19 PM

Hi Shawn,

Yes, nicotine pouches are subject to 21+ and the flavor prohibition. They do have less federal and state regulation than other products though. We have draft NFG language in the new model regulations, I've attached them here. If your board is ready to move forward I can also help with the process. I can also put you in touch with the NFG advocates, there is a working group that is able to attend and advocate for the policy more than I am at this moment.

Lisa M. Goodnight, Esq.
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Shaun McAuliffe <smcauliffe@hopkintonma.gov>
To: Lisa S <lstevensgoodnight@mma.org>

Wed, Feb 19, 2025 at 12:35 PM

Good afternoon Lisa,

1/5/26, 3:01 PM

Town of Hopkinton, MA Mail - NFG and Zin (Zin Like) Ban

I am presenting the draft regulation to the Board at our March meeting. I intend to proceed with the restriction on lozenge/pouch sales to adult only shops. I'd welcome an opportunity to consult with NFG advocates.

The Town Manager and Board are in favor of NFG.

Shaun

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