

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2021

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SENATE BILL 503

Short Title: End Youth Nicotine Dependence Act or END Act. (Public)

Sponsors: Senator Woodard (Primary Sponsor).

Referred to: Rules and Operations of the Senate

April 6, 2021

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT ENACTING THE "END YOUTH NICOTINE DEPENDENCE ACT" OR "END ACT."

Whereas, in North Carolina, use of electronic cigarettes among high school students has risen one thousand one hundred twenty-nine percent (1,129%) since 2011; and

Whereas, in North Carolina, twenty-seven and three-tenths percent (27.3%) of youth use tobacco products; and

Whereas, electronic cigarettes are tobacco products under North Carolina law; and

Whereas, youth are becoming addicted to electronic cigarettes at an alarming rate and are finding it difficult to quit; and

Whereas, the United States Surgeon General has reported that use of products containing nicotine in any form among young people is unsafe, secondhand electronic cigarette aerosol that is exhaled into the air by users is not harmless, and states must take action to prevent harm rather than waiting for harm to occur; and

Whereas, evidence shows that funding to create state and community interventions that encourage individuals to avoid tobacco use and help perpetuate social norms that discourage tobacco use are some of the most effective ways to prevent tobacco use and tobacco-related chronic disease and death among youth; and

Whereas, North Carolina receives approximately one hundred forty million dollars (\$140,000,000) every year from the Tobacco Master Settlement Agreement, which was intended to be used for tobacco use prevention programs; and

Whereas, by spending a fraction of the Tobacco Master Settlement Agreement funds on prevention, North Carolina can save on future medical costs caused by tobacco-related illnesses and prevent thousands of youth from becoming daily tobacco users; and

Whereas, the General Assembly finds that an investment of seventeen million dollars (\$17,000,000) per year in tobacco use prevention programs is required to prevent youth electronic cigarette nicotine dependence in North Carolina; Now, therefore,

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

SECTION 1. This act shall be known and may be cited as the "End Youth Nicotine Dependence Act" or the "END Act."

SECTION 2. Article 39 of Chapter 14 of the General Statutes is amended by adding a new section to read:

§ 14-313.5. Tobacco Use Prevention Fund.

(a) Definitions. – The following definitions apply in this section:

(1) Department. – The Department of Health and Human Services.



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1 (2) Fund. – The Tobacco Use Prevention Fund established under subsection (b)
2 of this section.

3 (b) Establishment and Purpose. – The Tobacco Use Prevention Fund is established as an
4 interest-bearing special fund in the Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Public
5 Health, Chronic Disease and Injury Section. The purpose of the Fund is to prevent the use of new
6 and emerging tobacco products, including electronic cigarettes, especially among youth and
7 people of childbearing age. The Fund shall consist of the amounts appropriated to the Fund from
8 the Settlement Reserve Fund pursuant to G.S. 143C-9-3(a1). Any balance remaining in the Fund
9 at the end of any fiscal year is carried forward in the Fund for the next succeeding fiscal year for
10 the purposes set forth in this section.

11 (c) Use of Moneys. – The Department is prohibited from expending moneys in the Fund
12 for any purposes other than the administrative purposes authorized by subsection (d) of this
13 section and the following:

14 (1) To fund local health departments through a regional infrastructure to provide
15 community-based education and training of youth leaders, schools, and local
16 agencies regarding Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
17 evidence-based tobacco use prevention and cessation interventions, including
18 interventions addressing e-cigarettes.

19 (2) For evidence-based media and education campaigns on the health risks of
20 tobacco use, including e-cigarettes.

21 (3) To increase military readiness of active-duty military in North Carolina
22 through tobacco use prevention and cessation policy, systems, and
23 environmental change.

24 (4) For grants to community colleges to support a healthy, tobacco-free campus.

25 (5) To track tobacco use and exposure, including exposure to e-cigarettes and
26 emerging tobacco products, among young people and populations most at risk
27 for tobacco use.

28 (6) To provide technical assistance and oversight of regional tobacco use
29 prevention programs.

30 (7) To conduct an independent evaluation of the reach and effectiveness of the
31 State's tobacco use prevention programs.

32 (d) Fund Administration. – The Department shall exercise administrative control over the
33 Fund and may use up to ten percent (10%) of the amount appropriated to the Fund each fiscal
34 year from the Settlement Reserve Fund for administrative purposes. The Department shall
35 develop guidelines for administering the Fund that are consistent with this section.

36 (e) Annual Report. – Annually on March 1, the Department of Health and Human
37 Services shall report to the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Health and Human Services
38 and the Fiscal Research Division on the expenditures made from the Fund during the preceding
39 fiscal year. The report shall identify each expenditure by recipient and purpose and shall indicate
40 the authority under this section for the expenditure."

41 **SECTION 3.** G.S. 143C-9-3(a1) reads as rewritten:

42 "(a1) Each year, the following amounts are appropriated from the Settlement Reserve Fund:
43 (i) the sum of seventeen million five hundred thousand dollars (\$17,500,000) ~~from the Settlement~~
44 ~~Reserve Fund is appropriated to The Golden L.E.A.F. (Long-Term Economic Advancement~~
45 ~~Foundation), Inc., a nonprofit corporation, and these corporation and (ii) the sum of seventeen~~
46 ~~million dollars (\$17,000,000) to the Tobacco Use Prevention Fund established under~~
47 ~~G.S. 14-313.5. The funds shall appropriated to The Golden L.E.A.F. are not be subject to~~
48 ~~G.S. 143C-6-23. The remainder of the funds credited to the Settlement Reserve Fund each fiscal~~
49 ~~year shall be transferred to the General Fund and included in General Fund availability as nontax~~
50 ~~revenue."~~

51 **SECTION 4.** This act becomes effective July 1, 2021.