



NH STATE SENATE PRESS RELEASE

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NH Senate Approves Legislation to Conform with Federal Law, Increase Tobacco Age

CONCORD - Today, the Senate voted 16-8 in favor of increasing the age for sales and possession of tobacco and vaping products from 19 to 21. The passage of this bill brings New Hampshire in line with the federal minimum age and protects the public health of New Hampshire's youth.

Prime sponsor Senator David Watters (D-Dover) released the following statement after the vote:

"Tobacco remains the top preventable cause of death and disease in New Hampshire. If people don't start smoking by the age of 21, it's very unlikely they will ever start. At the end of last year the federal government took action to raise the age to purchase and possess tobacco and vaping products and today's vote brings New Hampshire one step closer to conforming with federal law and enacting this commonsense policy that will save thousands of lives over a lifetime. I thank my Senate colleagues for their ongoing dedication to the protection of public health and look forward to shepherding this bill through the rest of the legislative process."

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Background:

- ***Include bullet here about the federal T21 enactment, which I believe was signed December 20 as part of the spending bill and enacted December 22**
- **On January 1, 2020, the provision of HB 4 that increased the tobacco age from 18 to 19 took effect.**
- **The final vote of 15-8 included Senators Bradley and Reagan with the majority**