

R:1-6 REGULATIONS RESTRICTING YOUTH ACCESS TO TOBACCO.¹

R:1-6.1 Declaration of Purpose.

WHEREAS, tobacco use by minors is a continuing problem with grave public health consequences because more than 82% of all smokers begin smoking before the age of eighteen (18) and more than 3,000 minors begin smoking every day in the United States; and

WHEREAS the US Department of Health and Human Services has concluded that nicotine is as addictive as cocaine or heroin, action is needed to curtail the easy access of tobacco products by minors.

Pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws Chapter III, Section 31, the Topsfield Board of Health enacts the following Regulations as strict and enforceable system to prevent access to and the illegal sale of tobacco products to minors.

R:1-6.2 Authority.

This regulation is promulgated under the authority granted to the Topsfield Board of Health under Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 111, Section 31 that "Boards of Health may make reasonable health regulations."

R:1-6.3 Definitions.

For the purposes of this Regulation, the following words shall have the meanings respectively ascribed to them by this paragraph.

- a. BOARD: The Board of Health of the Town of Topsfield.
- b. EMPLOYEE: Any individual person who performs services for an employer in return for wages or profit.
- c. EMPLOYER: An individual person, partnership, association, corporation, trust, or other organized group of individuals, including the Town of Topsfield or any agency thereof, which utilizes the services of one (1) or more individual employees.
- d. ENFORCEMENT OFFICER: Any individual designated an enforcement officer of these regulations shall be an acting agent of the Board of Health.
- e. INDIVIDUAL: Any employee, volunteer or any other person who patronizes an area where tobacco products are sold.
- f. PERSON: Any person, firm, partnership, association, corporation, company or organization of any kind including, but not limited to an owner, operator, manager, proprietor or person in charge of any building, establishment, business, or restaurant or retail store, or the agents or designees of any of the foregoing.
- g. RETAIL STORE: Any establishment selling goods or articles or products to the public.
- h. SELF-SERVICE DISPLAY: A display from which individual packs or cartons of tobacco products may be selected by a customer without assistance from a clerk or employee.
- i. TOBACCO VENDING MACHINE: Any machine or device designated for or used for the vending of cigarettes, cigars, tobacco or tobacco products upon the insertion of coins, trade checks, swipe cards, slips, or any other form of payment.
- j. TOWN: Town of Topsfield.

- k. VOLUNTEER: Any individual not compensated for services rendered.

R:1-6.4 Tobacco Sales to Minors Prohibited.

a. Sale to Minors. In conformance with Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 270, Section 6, whoever sells a cigarette, chewing tobacco, snuff or any tobacco in any of its forms to any person under the age of eighteen (18) or, not being his parent or guardian gives a cigarette, chewing tobacco, snuff or tobacco in any of its forms to any person under the age of eighteen (18), shall be punished according to the fine schedule set forth in Section 9 of this section.

b. Posting State Law. In conformance with Massachusetts General Law, Chapter 270, Section 7, a copy of Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 270, Section 6, shall be posted conspicuously by the owner or other person in charge thereof in the shop or other place used to sell cigarettes at retail. The notice to be posted shall be provided by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health and made available from the Board of Health of the Town of Topsfield. Such notice shall be at least 48 square inches and shall be posted at the cash register which receives the greatest volume of single cigarette package sales in such a manner so that it may be readily seen by a person standing or approaching the cash register. Such notice shall directly face the purchaser and shall not be obstructed from view or placed at a height of less than four (4) feet or greater than nine (9) feet from the floor. For all other cash registers that sell cigarettes, a notice shall be attached which is no smaller than nine (9) square inches, which is the size of the sign provided by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health. Such notice must be posted in a manner so that it may be readily seen by a person standing at or approaching the cash register. Such notice shall directly face the purchaser and shall not be obstructed from view or placed at a height of no less than four (4) feet or more than nine (9) feet from the floor.

c. Permit for Location and Sales of Tobacco.

1. After the effective date of this Regulation, all retailers who are required to hold a state license to sell cigarettes or other tobacco products, will be required to hold and maintain a valid "Permit for Location and Sales" from the Town of Topsfield for each location at which tobacco products are sold.

2. After the effective date of this Regulation, the Board of Health of the Town of Topsfield will issue a "Permit for Location and Sales" that will specify the name, address and approved location per the Board of Health of the Town of Topsfield or their designated agent(s) for retailers who sell tobacco products.

3. After receiving the permit, the merchant will receive signs made that state, "Sale of cigarettes or any tobacco products to persons under age eighteen (18) is illegal, M.G.L. Chapter 270, Sections 6 & 7." Any merchant not posting said signs will be in non-compliance of this Regulation and subject to penalties per Section 9 of this Regulation.

4. The term of the permit shall be one year.

5. The fee for the one year tobacco retailer's "Permit for Location and Sales" is one dollar (\$1.00) for each tobacco retail location.

6. A "Permit for Location and Sales" is non-transferable, except a new permit will be issued to a tobacco retailer who changes locations and pays the required fee.

7. During such time that a "Permit for Location and Sales" of tobacco products has been suspended for violations of this Regulation, all tobacco products must be removed from the premises. Any person or entity selling any tobacco products without said permit shall be fined according to Section 9 until said permit is reinstated by the Board of Health of the Town of Topsfield or its designated agent(s).

d. Tobacco Vending Machines. After the effective date of this Regulation, it shall be unlawful to sell or distribute any tobacco product through a cigarette vending machine or any other device used in the sale or distribution of tobacco products within the Town of Topsfield

e. Out-of-Package Sales Prohibited. No person or entity may sell or cause to be sold, or distribute or cause to be distributed, any cigarette package that contains fewer than twenty (20) cigarettes. Retailers are prohibited from opening any cigarette package to sell or distribute individual cigarettes.

f. Self-Service Display Restrictions. No retailer shall sell or offer for sale tobacco products by means of a self-service display. All humidors including, but not limited to, walk-in humidors must be locked.

g. Free Distribution of Tobacco Products. No retailer shall cause to be distributed any free samples of tobacco products.

h. Sales by Employees. Each retailer shall verify by means of photographic identification containing the bearer's date of birth that no person purchasing tobacco products is younger than 18 years of age, except that no such verification is required for any purchaser over the age of 26.

R:1-6.5 Penalties.

1. Any person who violates any section of this Regulation may be subject to the following fines and penalties:

a. Fifty dollar (\$50.00) fine for first offense.

b. One hundred dollar (\$100.00) fine for second offense within one (1) year and/or suspension of any license issued by the Board of Health for a period of seven (7) consecutive business days.

c. Two hundred dollar (\$200.00) fine for third offense within one (1) year, and for every other offense within one (1) year, and/or suspension of any license issued by the Board of Health for a period of thirty (30) consecutive business days.

d. Removal of vending machine.

2. The Board of Health of the Town of Topsfield shall provide written notice to the permittee of the intent to suspend a license issued by the Board of Health. The notice shall contain the reasons for the suspension and establish a date and time for a hearing. The date of the hearing shall be no earlier than seven (7) days after the date of said notice. The permittee shall have an opportunity to be heard at such hearing and shall be notified of the Board's decision and reasons in writing.

3. Non-Criminal Disposition.

a. Whoever violates any provision of this Regulation, the violation of which is subject to a specific penalty, may be penalized by the non-criminal method of disposition as provided in General Laws, Chapter 40, Section 21D or by filing a criminal complaint at the appropriate venue.

b. Each day on which any violation exists shall be deemed to be a separate offense.

c. Penalty: \$50.00 for first offense.
 \$100.00 for second offense.
 \$200.00 for third offense.

R:1-6.6 Enforcement.

Enforcement of this Regulation shall be implemented by the Board of Health of the Town of Topsfield or its designated agent(s). The designated enforcement officers of these regulations shall be the agents of the Board of Health. Said agents, as an alternative to initiating criminal proceedings, may give to the offender a written notice to appear before the Clerk of the District Court having jurisdiction thereof at any time during office hours, not later than twenty (21) days after the date of such notice. Such notice shall be in triplicate and shall contain the name and

address, if known, of the offender, the specific offense charged, and the time and place for his required appearance. Such notice shall be signed by the enforcing person, and shall be signed by the offender whenever practicable in acknowledgement that such notice has been received. The notice shall be served and all procedures followed as set out in said Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 40, Section 21D, as amended.

Any citizen who desires to register a complaint of non-compliance under the Regulation may do so by contacting the Board of Health of the Town of Topsfield or its designated agent(s).

R:1-6.7 Severability. If any paragraph or provision of this Regulation is found to be illegal or against public policy or unconstitutional, it shall not affect the legality of any remaining paragraphs or provisions being in force.

R:1-6.8 Effective date. This regulation shall take effect on 9/23/99.

ⁱ Editor's Note: Adopted by the Board of Health 9-23-1999.

^{vii} Editor's Note: Adopted by the Board of Health 8-28-2003.

^{viii} Editor's Note: Adopted by the Board of Health 4-22-2004.

^{ix} Editor's Note: Adopted by the Board of Health 7-2-/2004.

^x Editor's Note: Adopted by the Board of Health 8-23-2005.