



PRESS RELEASE

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Senator Vivian Davis Figures Introduces Legislation Banning Underage Vaping in Alabama

Alabama State Senator Vivian Davis Figures (D-Mobile) today introduced a bill that would make it illegal for minors to be in possession of vaping devices.

The bill is an amendment to Section 28-11-14 of the Code of Alabama 1975 and makes it unlawful for any individual under the age of 21 to purchase, use, possess, or transport any “electronic battery-powered device capable of being used to deliver any e-liquid, e-liquid substitute, tobacco, CBD oil, THC oil, herbal extract, or nicotine salt, or any analog thereof, or any other substance to the individual through the inhalation of vapor...” The bill notes that “a violation is committed upon mere possession” of a vaping device, regardless of substance, if any, in the device.

The bill received overwhelming bipartisan support and was co-sponsored by 100% of the state senators present.

Figures, a longtime healthcare advocate and successful author of the Alabama Clean Indoor Air Act, noted that nearly 20 percent of Alabama high school students admit to vaping. “Alabama has one of the highest incidences of vaping in the nation, which leads to higher healthcare costs, a loss of productivity, and a higher morbidity. This bill is meant to keep vaping devices out of the hands of minors and to keep our youth healthy so they can make informed decisions about vaping at a more appropriate age,” Figures said.

Virginia Guy, Executive Director of the Drug Education Council, said, “Underage vaping is the single biggest crisis we are seeing right now. An alarming number of middle school students are beginning to vape, and we’re even seeing children as young as seven- and eight-years-old vaping. Children and teens are much more susceptible to nicotine addiction, and when you consider that a single vape cartridge contains as much nicotine as an entire pack of cigarettes, you can see the danger. We are so appreciative of Senator Figures’ leadership on this issue and look forward to this underage vaping bill becoming law.”

“This bill amends the law that prohibits the possession of tobacco by minors, and is no different than the law prohibiting the possession of alcohol by minors. It will mean better health for our young people and our state overall,” Guy said. “I would urge everyone to contact their legislator and ask them to vote for this underage vaping bill. Let’s make Alabama a leader in the effort to outlaw underage vaping!”

For more information about the dangers of underage vaping, please visit: www.teenvapingcrisis.org

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