

Department of Health

Vermont's Smoke-Free Laws: **Act 135**

Act 135 is a law that extends secondhand smoke protections in workplaces, motor vehicles, public places and childcare settings. The law also takes a first step in protecting children from e-cigarette liquids poisonings. As of July 1, 2014, Act 135 became effective except for the packaging restriction on e-cigarette liquids, which will be in effect on January 1, 2015. For more information or to report a violation contact tobaccovt@state.vt.us or call 1-866-331-5622.

Hotels and Motels

- Expanding upon the protections of the Clean Indoor Air Act, Act 135 prohibits smoking in rooms and adjoining rooms rented to guests in hotels, motels and other lodging establishments.
- Complaints of violations of the Hotels & Motels component of Act 135 will be investigated and enforced by the Health Department's Food and Lodging Program.

School Grounds and Childcare Facilities

- Bans tobacco use and the use of tobacco substitutes, including e-cigarettes, on all public school grounds and at public school sponsored functions by all people at all times.
- Expands protections for children in licensed childcare facilities by banning the use of tobacco products and tobacco substitutes on the premises at all times, both indoors and outdoors. Tobacco and tobacco substitute use is also banned in registered family child care homes when children are in care, and it is required that parents are informed if smoking occurs in the home at other times.

State Buildings

- Establishes a 25-foot minimum smoke free boundary around all State-owned buildings and offices. State buildings that already have a 50-foot boundary can continue enforcing as already established.

State Operated Hospitals

- Requires that all State-owned and operated hospitals or secure facilities have a smoke-free campus. This will apply to the Vermont Psychiatric Care Hospital, which will have a smoke-free campus when it opens.

E-liquids

- Bans the sale of liquid or gel substances that contain nicotine unless the product is contained in child-resistant packaging. This does not apply to cartridges that are not designed to be opened by the consumer. This restriction will go into effect on January 1, 2015.

Motor Vehicles

- Prohibits smoking in motor vehicles occupied by children in a car seat or booster seat, which is required for children ages 7 and younger.
- This is a primary offense, meaning an individual can be pulled over and issued a citation even if no other violations have been committed. Violating the law is punishable by up to a \$100 fine.