

**S.18: Health Equity Advisory Commission recommendation on menthol**

Sec. \_\_. HEALTH EQUITY ADVISORY COMMISSION; MENTHOL TOBACCO  
PRODUCT BAN; REPORT

(a) The General Assembly finds that:

(1) Menthol cigarette use is more prevalent among persons of color who smoke than among white persons who smoke and is more common among lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender smokers than among heterosexual smokers.

(2) There are differing views regarding whether enacting a ban on the sale of menthol cigarettes and other menthol tobacco products would be supportive of persons of color, who have been disproportionately targeted by the marketing of menthol products, resulting in Black individuals dying at disproportionately high rates from tobacco-related diseases when compared with other racial and ethnic groups, or whether a ban would be racist or would discriminate against persons of color and members of other marginalized communities by depriving them of their preferred cigarettes and other menthol tobacco products.

(b) On or before January 15, 2025, in its annual report due pursuant to 18 V.S.A. § 252(e), the Health Equity Advisory Commission shall recommend to the General Assembly whether the sale of tobacco products containing menthol, including menthol cigarettes and menthol-flavored tobacco substitutes, should be banned in Vermont.