

1 H.602

2 Introduced by Representatives Page of Newport City, Chase of Colchester,
3 Goldman of Rockingham, Houghton of Essex, Morgan, L. of
4 Milton, Morgan, M. of Milton, Rosenquist of Georgia, Seymour
5 of Sutton, and Yantachka of Charlotte

6 Referred to Committee on

7 Date:

8 Subject: Tobacco products; cigarettes; single-use filters

9 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to prohibit the
10 sale in Vermont of tobacco products, including cigarettes, utilizing single-use
11 filters.

12 An act relating to prohibiting the sale of tobacco products utilizing single-
13 use filters

14 It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

15 Sec. 1. FINDINGS

16 The General Assembly finds that:

17 (1) A cigarette butt is composed of a cigarette filter and any unsmoked
18 portion of a cigarette. More than 95 percent of cigarette filters are made of a
19 nonbiodegradable plastic known as cellulose acetate.

1 (2) Discarded cigarette butts introduce hazardous toxins, including lead
2 and arsenic, into the environment and contribute significantly to pollution in
3 the soil and waterways, impacting the health of fish and other wildlife and the
4 safety of the food supply for humans.

5 (3) Cigarette filters do not improve the safety or healthfulness of
6 cigarettes; in fact, the U.S. Surgeon General has noted an increased risk of lung
7 cancer associated with filtered cigarettes. Filters allow smokers to inhale more
8 frequently and more deeply from cigarettes, drawing carcinogens deeper into
9 the lung tissue.

10 (4) Cigarette butts are the most littered item in the United States and
11 around the world. Worldwide, approximately 4.5 trillion cigarette butts are
12 littered each year, adding up to more than 1.5 billion pounds of trash and
13 requiring the expenditure of millions of dollars on clean-up costs.

14 (5) Efforts to prevent cigarette butt litter by educating consumers have
15 failed. Littering is often considered by smokers to be part of the smoking
16 ritual, with 75 percent of smokers reporting disposing of their cigarettes on the
17 ground or out of a car door or window.

1 Sec. 2. 7 V.S.A. § 1003 is amended to read:

2 § 1003. SALE OF TOBACCO PRODUCTS; TOBACCO SUBSTITUTES;
3 TOBACCO PARAPHERNALIA; REQUIREMENTS;
4 PROHIBITIONS

5 * * *

6 (g) A person shall not sell or provide:

7 (1) a tobacco product utilizing a single-use filter made of any material,
8 including cellulose acetate, any other fibrous plastic material, or any organic or
9 biodegradable material; or

10 (2) an attachable and single-use device made of any material intended to
11 facilitate manual manipulation or filtration of a tobacco product.

12 Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

13 This act shall take effect on July 1, 2022.