

## TOBACCO RETAIL LICENSING IN TENNESSEE

A TOBACCO RETAIL LICENSE GIVES TENNESSEE REAL ENFORCEMENT POWER TO PROTECT KIDS AND SUPPORT RESPONSIBLE RETAILERS.

### WHAT THE BILL ESTABLISHES

- Creates a \$250 annual tobacco retail license, administered by the Tennessee Alcoholic Beverage Commission (TABC).
- For the first time, Tennessee will have an official list of all tobacco and vape retailers.
- Currently, agencies like ABC, Agriculture, and Health do not know where all retailers are, making enforcement nearly impossible.

### REAL ENFORCEMENT POWER

- Today, agencies can issue fines — but no agency is clearly authorized to collect them, so most go unpaid.
- This bill ties violations to a license, creating meaningful consequences.
- Penalties escalate and align with existing law:
  - 1st violation: \$2,500 fine
  - 2nd violation: \$20,000 fine
  - 3rd violation: License suspension
- After repeated violations, the ABC may revoke a license at its discretion.

### CONSISTENT COMPLIANCE CHECKS

- Requires annual compliance checks for every retailer statewide.
- Checks are conducted by TABC using a person under 21 attempting to purchase.
- Ensures fair, consistent enforcement, regardless of location.

### CLOSING YOUTH ACCESS LOOPHOLES

- Bans delivery and curbside sales of tobacco and vape products.
- All sales must be in-person and over the counter.
- Shuts down a major access point for teens where online and curbside sales are loosely monitored.

### STATEWIDE RETAILER DATABASE

- Creates a public, up-to-date database of every licensed tobacco retailer.
- Allows state agencies and law enforcement to coordinate enforcement, track violations, and target problem areas.
- Improves efficiency and accountability across agencies.

### WHY THIS MATTERS

- Protects youth by identifying and stopping repeat violators.
- Supports retailers who follow the law by leveling the playing field.
- Improves community health without adding burdens to responsible businesses.

**THIS BILL CREATES ACCOUNTABILITY, STRENGTHENS ENFORCEMENT, AND PROTECTS KIDS, ALL WHILE SUPPORTING RETAILERS WHO DO THE RIGHT THING.**