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3 **Title: Tobacco-Free Parks and Beaches**
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5 **Introduced by: Gary Johnson, MD, for the Genesee County Delegation**
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7 **Original Author: Gary Johnson, MD**
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9 **Referred to: Reaffirmation Calendar**
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11 **House Action: Reaffirmed**
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14 **Whereas, in order to preserve the public health, safety and welfare of the**
15 **citizens of the Genesee County, Michigan, and the nation as a whole, and**
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17 **Whereas, tobacco use causes death and disease and continues to be an**
18 **urgent public health challenge, and**
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20 **Whereas, secondhand smoke has repeatedly been identified as a health**
21 **hazard, and**
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23 **Whereas, exposure to secondhand smoke anywhere has negative health**
24 **impacts, and exposure to secondhand smoke does, contrary to a common**
25 **misconception, occur at significant levels outdoors, and**
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27 **Whereas, smokeless tobacco is not a safe alternative to smoking and**
28 **causes significant death and disease, and**
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30 **Whereas, children who attend or participate in athletic and recreational**
31 **events can be affected by secondhand smoke and the use of other tobacco**
32 **products; and smoking and the use of other tobacco products at such events**
33 **sends a deleterious health message to youth and student athletes, and**
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35 **Whereas, cigarette butts are the most littered item in the United States**
36 **and a dangerous nuisance, and**
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38 **Whereas, cigarette butts pose a health threat to young children, pets, and**
39 **wildlife, and**
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41 **Whereas, smoking outside in natural areas, where there are trees,**
42 **shrubs, and grasses, poses a significant risk of fire damage to those natural**
43 **areas, and cigarette-caused fires unnecessarily jeopardize firefighters and**
44 **result in avoidable emergency response costs, and**
45

46 **Whereas, laws restricting the use of tobacco products have clear benefits**
47 **to public health and medical costs, and**

48 Whereas, unregulated high-tech smoking devices, commonly referred to
49 as electronic cigarettes or "e-cigarettes," closely resemble and purposefully
50 mimic the act of smoking by having users inhale vaporized liquid nicotine
51 created by heat through an electronic ignition system, and

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53 Whereas, electronic cigarettes are known to have caused serious injury
54 from explosion of their rechargeable lithium batteries, and

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56 Whereas, creating smoke-free areas helps protect the health of our
57 children and the 80 percent of adults who do not smoke, and

58
59 Whereas, a large number of citizens and visitors to beaches and parks
60 find smoking and the use of tobacco products a serious health concern in both
61 indoor and outdoor environments, particularly where a large number of people
62 are gathered together in close proximity, and

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64 Whereas, there is no Constitutional right to smoke or use other tobacco
65 products; therefore be it

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67 **RESOLVED:** That MSMS endorse making all parks and beaches in
68 Michigan 100 percent tobacco-free; and be it further

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70 **RESOLVED:** That our AMA endorse making all parks and beaches in the
71 United States 100 percent tobacco free and to pursue this goal by working with
72 all state medical societies to establish similar policy implementation in their
73 respective states.

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76 **WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE FISCAL NOTE: NONE**