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RESOLUTION 22-15

Title: Raise Minimum Legal Age to Purchase Tobacco Products to 21ⁱ

Introduced by: Joshua Meyerson, MD, for the Northern Michigan County Delegation

Original Author: Joshua Meyerson, MD

Referred to: Reference Committee D

House Action: **APPROVED**

Whereas, each year over 14,400 Michiganders die from tobacco use and exposure to secondhand smoke and 10,300 Michigan children become addicted to tobacco, of whom a third will die prematurely because of this addiction, and

Whereas, 95 percent of adults began smoking before age 21 and three out of four become regular, daily smokers before age 21, and

Whereas, the developing brain is not fully mature until 25 years and is far more susceptible to addiction than a more fully developed adult brain, and

Whereas, “if a man has never smoked by age 18, the odds are three-to-one he never will. By age 21, the odds are twenty-to-one,”ⁱⁱ and

Whereas, 85 percent of youth obtain tobacco from social sources such as friends, family, or someone who buys for them, and

Whereas, minors routinely encounter 18 year olds at school and elsewhere, but have much less contact with 21 year olds, and

Whereas, 18–20 year olds purchase only 2 percent of cigarettes sold, but are 90 percent of the supply of addictive tobacco to younger kids, and

Whereas, raising the legal smoking age to 21 and limiting access to persons under the age of 21 years will decrease overall tobacco use rates by young people, thereby saving healthcare costs while increasing length and quality of life, and

Whereas, in Needham, Massachusetts increasing the legal tobacco sales age to 21 was associated with a reduction in youth smoking by over 50 percent from 2008-2010, and

Whereas, over 50 cities including New York City, New York; Evanston, Illinois; Englewood, New Jersey; and, Columbia, Missouri, have successfully raised the legal purchase age of tobacco products to 21 years, and currently some states such as California and Washington are considering similar measures, and

49 Whereas, in 2011, tobacco companies spent an estimated \$276 million to
50 market their products in Michigan, and nationally spent over \$1 million per hour on
51 marketing expenditures, and

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53 Whereas, in a 2012 United States Surgeon General’s report, *Preventing*
54 *Tobacco Use Among Youth and Young Adults*, the Surgeon General concluded that
55 the images in tobacco marketing make tobacco use look appealing to young people,
56 and

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58 Whereas, the Surgeon General’s report also found that 1) specifically, the more
59 young people are exposed to cigarette advertising and promotional activities, the
60 more likely they are to smoke; and, 2) extensive use of price-reducing promotions has
61 led to higher rates of tobacco use among young people, and that many tobacco
62 products on the market appeal to youth (e.g., cigarette-sized cigars that contain candy
63 and fruit flavoring, such as strawberry and grape), and

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65 Whereas, smoking-caused health problems cost Michigan a total of more than
66 \$4.5 billion per year, including more than \$1.3 billion in Medicaid expenditures;
67 therefore be it

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69 RESOLVED: That MSMS endorses raising the minimum legal age to purchase
70 tobacco products, including e-cigarettes, to 21 years of age; and be it further

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72 RESOLVED: That the American Medical Association amend subsection (1) of
73 policy H-495.986 Tobacco Product Sales and Distribution as follows:

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75 (1) encourages the passage of laws, ordinances and regulations that would set the
76 minimum age for purchasing tobacco products, **INCLUDING E-CIGARETTES**, at 21
77 years, and urges strict enforcement of laws prohibiting the sale of tobacco products to
78 minors.

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81 WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE FISCAL NOTE: NONE

ⁱ Resolution was written with help of Tobacco Free Michigan. Sources: Tobacco 21 “Healthy Towns, Healthy Kids” www.tobacco21.org. Campaign for Tobacco Free Kids www.tobaccofreekids.org. 2013 Michigan Youth Risk Behavior Survey http://www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/2013MIH_Trend_Report_459009_7.pdf page 32. “Strategies to Reduce Youth Tobacco Use,” *Am J Prev Med* 2014;47(2S1):S93-S94. Preventing Tobacco Use Among Youth and Young Adults: A Report of the Surgeon General 2012. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Public Health Service, Office of the Surgeon General, Rockville, MD.

ⁱⁱ RJ Reynolds researcher, 1982. “Raising the legal minimum age for cigarette purchase to 21 could gut our key young adult market (17-20)” —Phillip Morris Report, 1986.