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Title: Raise Minimum Age of Legal Access to Tobacco and Nicotine Products in Michigan

Introduced by: Gerald D. Natzke, Jr, DO, for the Genesee County Delegation

Original Author: Gerald D. Natzke, Jr, DO

Referred to: Reaffirmation Calendar

House Action: **REAFFIRM**

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Whereas, each year over 15,000 Michiganders die from tobacco use and over 10,000 Michigan children become new regular, daily smokers, of whom a third will die prematurely because of this addiction, and

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

Whereas, raising the legal age of access to 21 would reduce the likelihood that young people would have access to tobacco products through social sources, and

Whereas, nearly 60 jurisdictions in seven states have already raised the minimum age of legal access to tobacco products, and several states are currently considering statewide legislation to do so, and

Whereas, smoking-caused health costs in Michigan total more than \$4.5 billion per year, and

Whereas, raising the age of legal access to tobacco products to age 21 will likely decrease overall tobacco use rates, and

Whereas, the Institute of Medicine concluded that raising the age of legal access to tobacco products to 21 years of age will likely prevent or delay initiation of tobacco use by adolescents and young adults, thus immediately improving the health of adolescents and young adults, improving maternal, fetal, and infant health outcomes, and substantially reducing smoking prevalence and smoking-related mortality over time, and

Whereas, it is predicted that raising the age to 21 in Michigan would result in fewer premature deaths, fewer deaths from lung cancer, and fewer years of life lost; therefore be it

RESOLVED: That MSMS endorses raising the minimum age of legal access to tobacco and nicotine products to 21 years of age in the State of Michigan.

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