

Town of Ware, Massachusetts

Board of Health

Notice of Public Hearing

RESTRICTING YOUTH ACCESS TO TOBACCO AND TOBACCO PRODUCTS REGULATIONS

The Ware Board of Health will hold a public hearing on **Wednesday, November 28, 2018 at 2:15 PM** in the Selectmen's Meeting Room of the Ware Town Hall to receive public comment on whether existing Ware Board of Health regulations "Restricting **Youth Access to Tobacco**" should be amended to prohibit the sale of tobacco and tobacco-like products to any person under the age of 21 effective as of December 30, 2018. More detailed information can be found on the town website- at townofware.com.

Additionally, the Board of Health will take up minor changes to the regulations so that they are consistent with the State Law Acts of 2018 Chapter 157, including the definition of tobacco products.

Answers to Frequently Asked Questions:

What will the vote mean?

A **YES** vote by a majority of the Board of Health will mean the legal age to purchase tobacco and tobacco products will be 21 years old effective 12-30-18.

A **NO** vote by a majority of the Board of Health will allow the State law to go into effect on 12-31-18 which means person 18, 19 and 20 years olds as of that date will be "grandfathered" and legally can still purchase tobacco and tobacco products in Ware.

Will the new State law and any new local health regulations cover vaping and electronic cigarettes, electronic cigars, or electronic pipes?

YES. The new state law signed by the governor defines **tobacco products** as " a product containing, made or derived from tobacco or nicotine that is intended for human consumption, whether smoked, chewed, absorbed, dissolved, inhaled, snorted, sniffed or ingested by any other means including, but not limited to, cigarettes, cigars, little cigars, chewing tobacco, pipe tobacco, snuff, electronic cigarettes, electronic cigars, electronic pipes, electronic nicotine delivery systems or any other similar products that rely on vaporization or aerosolization...." It does not include FDA approved smoking cessation products such as nicotine gum or skin patches.

How do I participate?

Public Participation is greatly encouraged. You can participate by

- 1.) Attending the hearing on **Wednesday, November 28, 2018 at 2:15 PM** in the Selectmen's Meeting Room of the Ware Town Hall.
- 2.) Mail or drop off signed, written comment to the Board of Health office before noon on November 28, 2018. OR
- 3.) Email your comments to health@townofware.com before noon on November 28, 2018.

