

HEATHER HADWICK

MEMBER FOR THE 1ST ASSEMBLY DISTRICT



FACT SHEET

AB 2667 – Combating Deceptively Marketed Vapes and Enabling Safe Disassembly of Vape Pens

IN BRIEF

Vaping is a public health crisis in schools and pose challenges for household hazardous waste (HHW) collection facilities (HHWCF) to identify and properly dispose.

Assembly Bill 2667 will help combat the proliferation of vapes in schools and gives HHWCFs and law enforcement more tools to manage vapes.

Specifically, this bill bans the sale of disguised vapes (like those that are virtually identical to school supplies, clothing, and household products) and video game vapes (which increase dependence on the vape), directs the Department of Toxic Substances Control to develop recommendations for schools to more easily manage and dispose of vapes confiscated by schools, and authorizes HHWCFs to disassemble vapes to reduce the costs to properly dispose of those devices.

BACKGROUND & ISSUE

U.S. teens and adults are buying roughly 12 million disposable vapes per month, and Americans throw away 4.5 vapes per second.

Schools often confiscate vape pens that students bring from home. While a student or parent can dispose of a vape pen as HHW at an HHWCF, schools cannot because they are not considered a household. This increases management challenges and costs for schools.

Local governments are responsible for the collection, processing, recycling and disposal of solid waste, including the operation of local HHWCFs. These local programs provide important public services and prevent improper disposal of HW.

Vapes are HW because they contain nicotine or cannabis, lithium batteries, and electronic components. Vapes are considered HHW when generated from a household and can be accepted for disposal at an HHWCF. Vape disposal can cost HHWCFs \$350 or more for a five-gallon bucket. Those costs could be significantly reduced if HHWCFs had the authority to disassemble vapes and separate the expensive-to-manage cartridges from the more recyclable batteries and circuitry. However, existing law considers any physical modification of HW as treatment requiring a special permit.

SOLUTION

AB 2667 directs DTSC to identify ways to improve the management and disposal of vapes confiscated from students by schools. The bill also protects schoolchildren and young adults by banning the sale of vapes that are disguised to conceal the nature of the vape product from parents, teachers, or other adults. Vapes should not be disguised as highlighters, sharpies, and other household goods to avoid detection, as there are real world consequences when those devices make their way into the waste stream and pose substantial fire risks. Similarly, AB 2667 bans vapes with interactive video game devices intended to increase addiction by promoting active interaction with the device.

By allowing HHWCFs to disassemble vapes, they can separate electronic components from other hazardous components in the vape, thereby facilitating recycling of the batteries and circuitry while reducing costs to properly dispose of the hazardous cartridge.

AB 2667 will help schools and local governments manage the vape pen waste stream while protecting children, schools, and holding violators accountable.

SUPPORT

Rural County Representatives of California
(Sponsor)

CONTACT

Andrew Nickens
Andrew.Nickens@asm.ca.gov
(916) 319-2001