



THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401
ST. MARY'S COUNTY DELEGATION

January 18, 2021

Senate Bill 239 – St. Mary's County – Public and Nonpublic Schools – Prohibition on Possession of Tobacco Products by Minors

Dear Chairman Pinsky and Members of the Committee,

The St. Mary's County Delegation supports Senate Bill 239 – St. Mary's County – Public and Nonpublic Schools – Prohibition on Possession of Tobacco Products by Minors. This bill would prohibit a person under the age of 18 from possessing a tobacco product in school buildings or on school grounds in St. Mary's County.

Senate Bill 239 is narrowly focused and only applies to possession of tobacco products by minors on school property, and does not impose any criminal penalties for violations. A violation of this law would be a civil offense, and the first violation would result only in the minor being required to attend a tobacco cessation program. We believe that this is a critical means to introduce cessation opportunities while these teens are in the early stages of use.

As you know, tobacco use by minors, particularly the increased use of e-cigarettes, is a serious issue. Currently, several Maryland jurisdictions are suing e-cigarette manufacturer Juul for marketing their products towards minors, and many young people mistakenly believe that these vape products are safe. We respectfully request a favorable report on Senate Bill 239. Thank you for your consideration of this important local bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Matt Morgan".

Delegate Matt Morgan

Chair,

St. Mary's County Delegation