**Tobacco**

***House Bill 321 – Cigarette Restitution Fund – Payments for Sale and Marketing of Electronic Smoking Devices – Use: PASSED***

This bill creates an account within the Cigarette Restitution Fund to collect payments received by the State from any judgment, settlement, or other enforcement action related to the sale and marketing of electronic smoking devices. The money from this separate account may be used to supplement the funding of General Fund-supported programs meant to reduce the use of tobacco products among people below the age of twenty-one. *This bill received a favorable with amendments report from the House Health and Government Operations Committee and received a favorable report from the Senate Finance Committee. This bill is now awaiting the Governor’s signature.*

***House Bill 777/Senate Bill 541 – Cigarettes – Wholesalers – Disclosure of Information: PASSED***

This bill requires all licensed cigarette wholesalers in Maryland to submit complete and accurate information to the Comptroller for compliance purposes. In addition to providing information to the Comptroller every calendar quarter, licensed wholesalers must keep a record of sales and other information for the Comptroller to access for five years. This bill also gives the Comptroller the discretion to disclose all reported information to the Attorney General to determine compliance and effectuate enforcement. *The House and the Senate amended the cross-files consistently, and both bills passed both chambers. The Governor signed the bills on April 11, 2023.*

***Senate Bill 259 – Business Regulation – Flavored Tobacco Products – Prohibition: FAILED***

This bill would have prohibited the manufacture, sale, and shipment of flavored tobacco products, including menthol, into or within Maryland. Any licensee who violated this bill would have been guilty of a misdemeanor and subject to imprisonment up to 30 days, a fine not exceeding $1,000, or both. *This bill received a hearing in the Senate Finance Committee but never received a vote.*

***House Bill 315/Senate Bill 817 – Multifamily Dwellings – Smoking Policies: FAILED***

This bill would have mandated all condominium and cooperative housing corporations in Maryland to develop a smoking policy. The smoking policy would have had to state where smoking is permitted and prohibited on the property, the process to file a complaint for violating the policy, and any consequences for violating the policy. *These bills received hearings in the House Environment and Transportation Committee and Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee. Neither bill received a vote.*

***Senate Bill 795 – Wicomico County – Alcoholic Beverages – Cigar Lounge License: FAILED***

This bill would have established a cigar bar license in Wicomico County, authorizing the licensee to sell alcohol for onsite consumption and exempting holders of these licenses from the Clean Indoor Air Act by permitting indoor cigar smoking. *This bill received a hearing in the Senate Finance Committee but never received a vote.*

***House Bill 1000 – Alcohol and Tobacco Commission – Updates: FAILED***

This bill would have allowed holders of a common carrier permit to ship premium cigars or pipe tobacco from inside or outside of Maryland. This bill also permits the Maryland Department of Health or the Alcohol and Tobacco Commission to conduct unannounced inspections or searches of a retailer’s premises without a warrant. Premium cigar or pipe tobacco retailers would not have been subject to product seizure without a warrant. *This bill received* *a favorable with amendments report from the House Economic Matters Committee and passed in the House (101-33). The bill also received* *a favorable with amendments report from the Senate Finance Committee and passed in the Senate (33-13), but the amended bill was never considered by the House.*