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The Nevada Senate's Simulation Experience

INTRODUCTORY REMARKS FOR BILL SPONSOR

Prepared for uLegislate

Note: Use of this speech is optional in the uLegislate simulation. If you would like to make your own arguments in support of the piece of legislation, please do! But if you would like some help, we have written these introductory remarks, which you can make immediately after the Secretary of the Senate reads the bill and the President asks for remarks.

SENATE BILL 263

Revises provisions relating to the regulation and taxation of certain vapor products, alternative nicotine products, and tobacco products.

INTRODUCTORY REMARKS:

Thank you, (Mr./Madam) President. This bill expands the general smoking prohibition contained in the Nevada Clean Indoor Air Act to include any electronic smoking devices and prohibits anyone from selling, distributing, or offering to sell cigarettes, cigarette paper, or other tobacco products to any child under 18. The bill removes criminal penalties for violating this prohibition, and instead makes the violator liable for civil penalties. It also establishes the procedure for the issuance of a notice of infraction to a person violating this prohibition.

Alternative nicotine products and vapor products, including electronic cigarettes, cigars, cigarillos, pipes, hookahs, vape pens, and similar products or devices and their components are now categorized the same as other tobacco products so they can be regulated and taxed. Any wholesale and retail dealer of those other tobacco products must now be licensed by the Department of Taxation and pay a 30 percent tax on the wholesale price of such products. Licensed retailers or distributors of these products are also required to label the packages as “cigarettes” or “tobacco products” and verify the age of the buyer.

Finally, this bill appropriates \$5 million during the 2019–2021 Biennium from the State General Fund to the Department of Health and Human Services for programs to control and prevent the use of tobacco, and \$958,859 during the 2019–2021 Biennium from the State General Fund to the Department of Taxation for licensing and taxing wholesale and retail dealers of certain nicotine products. Any remaining balance of the appropriations must revert to the State General Fund.