

BULLETIN



Comptroller of Maryland • Alcohol and Tobacco Tax Division • Goldstein Treasury Building • P.O. Box 2999
Annapolis, Maryland 21404-2999 • Telephone: 410-260-7314 • Forms-by-Fax: 410-974-FAXX(3299);
World Wide Web: www.marylandtaxes.com

No. TT-25
June 2, 2000

TO: Cigarette Manufacturers, Wholesalers, Subwholesalers, Vending Machine Operators, and Clerks of the Court

SUBJECT: 2000 Legislation Affecting Cigarette Sales and Distribution

The 2000 Maryland General Assembly passed several bills pertaining to the sale and distribution of tobacco products in Maryland which may directly or indirectly affect licensees and the local Clerks of the Court, who issue retail cigarette licenses.

Please note the following bills and take appropriate action as indicated:

- **Senate Bill 6 (Chapter 220; effective October 1, 2000).** This bill will prohibit the sale, distribution, and dispensing of cigarettes in packages of less than 20. This prohibition extends to cigarettes given away as samples. Therefore, as of October 1, cigarette manufacturers or others may not provide sample cigarettes in Maryland unless the package contains at least 20 cigarettes.
- **Senate Bill 271 (Chapter 247; effective January 1, 2001).** This bill will prohibit the sale or dispensing of any tobacco product by means of a vending machine unless one of the following conditions are met: (1) the machine can only be operated with a token, card, or similar device that the individual can only obtain or purchase from the machine owner, employee, or agent of the owner, (2) the machine is located in an establishment that minors are prohibited by law from

entering, or (3) is located in an establishment that is a bonafide fraternal or veteran's organization.

Holders of vending machine operator licenses issued by the Comptroller's Office will be required to submit to this office on or before January 1, 2001 a list of all machine placements and certification that each machine complies with one of the three exceptions outlined above. With respect to exceptions under # 2 above, a copy of the state law or local ordinance shall be cited, or copy provided, in order to qualify under that exception. Similar certification will be required for new vending machine operator licenses and with all renewal applications.

Local Clerks of the Court are advised that they should develop similar requirements for licenses they issue or that are in effect subsequent to January 1, 2001. It is also recommended that the Clerks distribute copies of this notice to affected licensees.

Please contact this office at 410-260-7314 if you have any questions regarding these new laws or requirements.

Charles W. Ehart, DPA
Director
Alcohol and Tobacco Tax Division

