

HB 959 – Prohibit the Sale of Flavored Vaping Products

Legislative Rubric from Science for Georgia

[HB 959](#) prohibits the sale of any flavored consumable products of tobacco and vaping products

Criteria	Variables			
Impact Who is going to be impacted? Is it equitable? List stakeholders & opinions.	Negative		Positive	
	A large majority of public respondents support a flavor ban and regulating e-cigarettes as a whole. In 2024, the US DOJ, FDA , and 4 other law enforcement agencies banned together to combat the distribution of e-cigarettes.			
Reach Does it reach its target audience?	0 - No impact on target audience.	1 - Impacts narrow segment.	2 - Impacts majority; exceptions.	3 - Impacts entire target audience
	If kratom is to be considered a schedule 1 substance, this will affect its availability in a commercial sphere and thus affect Georgia residents equally.			
Scientific Merit Does it utilize scientific research accurately?	YES - this does follow scientific research accurately. Here's why....		NO - this does not present scientific research accurately.	
	Tobacco has long since shown an association with negative health effects, with it being one of the main risk factors globally for premature loss of life and disability. By adding flavors to tobacco products, the appeal and use of the product increase, thereby increasing the uptake in nicotine and tobacco. Flavored tobacco products are used by young people under 18 most, which influences future health behaviors.			
Financial Feasibility Is it financially feasible? or does this have burdensome finances (higher taxes, future costs, etc)?	0 - Extremely high costs	1 - Expensive but can be done	2 - Slight	3 - No financial burden
	The vaping industry in Georgia is estimated to be worth a total of about \$644 million; furthermore, the industry has created around 2,500 jobs and has generated \$87 million in revenue. There is no financial burden on Georgians with HB 959; in fact, the total healthcare expenditures from exclusively e-cigarettes was \$1.3 billion in 2018, which would be saved if e-cigarettes are banned.			
Political Feasibility Level of opposition and partisan disagreement.	0 - Majority disagreed, regardless of party.	1 – Split along party lines	2 - Minimal Opposition	3 - Complete consensus (zero to five 'Nays').
	No votes yet. This bill has 5 sponsors, 3 of which are Republicans and 2 of which are Democrats.			

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Measurable Metrics? We recommend looking at these 3 metrics. Is the data available or being measured?	0 - no data	1 - some data / not accessible	2 - most data / somewhat accessible	3 - complete transparency
	The data on flavored tobacco products is easily accessible and is in agreement about the association with negative health effects, thus providing support for this bill.			