

**BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
MARTIN COUNTY, FLORIDA**

**ORDINANCE NO. \_\_\_\_\_**

**AN ORDINANCE OF MARTIN COUNTY, FLORIDA AMENDING ARTICLE 6, RELATING TO TOBACCO PRODUCTS, CHAPTER 87, GENERAL ORDINANCES, MARTIN COUNTY CODE; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTING PROVISIONS, SEVERABILITY, AND APPLICABILITY; PROVIDING FOR FILING WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE AND DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE, AN EFFECTIVE DATE AND CODIFICATION.**

**WHEREAS**, the Board of County Commissioners of Martin County, Florida, is authorized by provisions in Chapter 125, Florida Statutes, to provide for the health, safety and general welfare of the residents of Martin County; and

**WHEREAS**, the use of tobacco products has had devastating health and economic consequences in Martin County; and

**WHEREAS**, to help combat the impact of tobacco product use, on November 17, 2020 the Board adopted Ordinance 1149, which, among other things, established 21 as the minimum age for the purchase and use of tobacco products in Martin County and established a Tobacco Distribution License requirement and related enforcement provisions for tobacco retailers in Martin County; and

**WHEREAS**, Ordinance 1149 was codified in Article 6, pertaining to tobacco products, and Article 7, pertaining to the use of vapor-generating devices, in Chapter 87, General Ordinances, Martin County Code; and

**WHEREAS**, on May 7, 2021, Governor DeSantis signed Senate Bill 1080 which contains language preempting local governments from regulating the minimum age for purchasing or possessing and the marketing, sale or delivery of nicotine products beginning October 1, 2021; and

**WHEREAS**, based on the preemption language contained in Senate Bill 1080, Article 6, Chapter 87, General Ordinances, Martin County Code must be repealed in its entirety by October 1, 2021; and

**WHEREAS**, the Tax Collector's Office issues Tobacco Distribution Licenses which are effective from October 1<sup>st</sup> though September 30<sup>th</sup> of each year and require yearly renewal; and

**WHEREAS**, the renewal timeframe for existing Tobacco Distribution Licenses begins on July 1, 2021; and

**WHEREAS**, the Tobacco Distribution License requirement and related enforcement provisions should be repealed prior to the July 1, 2021 renewal timeframe.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF MARTIN COUNTY, FLORIDA, THAT:**

**PART 1: ARTICLE 6. TOBACCO PRODUCTS, CHAPTER 87, HEALTH, GENERAL ORDINANCES, MARTIN COUNTY CODE, IS HEREBY AMENDED AS FOLLOWS:**

**Sec. 87.131. - Title.**

This article shall be known and cited as the "Prohibition of Sale or Distribution of Tobacco Products to Persons Under 21 Years of Age."

**Sec. 87.132. - Intent.**

It is the intent of this article to promote, protect, and improve the health, safety, and general welfare of the citizens of Martin County, Florida, by discouraging the unhealthy practice of using tobacco products and to help prevent the addiction to nicotine, especially by young people under the age of 21, through regulation of the marketing, sale and merchandising of tobacco products, to the extent such regulation is not preempted to the federal or state government. This article shall not be interpreted or construed to prohibit the sale or delivery of tobacco products which are otherwise lawful or regulated pursuant to F.S. ch. 569.

**Sec. 87.133. - Definitions.**

For the purpose of this article the following terms shall mean:

*Business* means any sole proprietorship, joint venture, partnership, corporation, limited liability company or other business formed for profit making or non-profit purposes operating within the unincorporated area of Martin County, Florida, including all retail establishments where goods or services are sold.

*Distribute or Distribution* means to furnish, give, provide, or to attempt to do so, whether gratuitously or for any type of compensation.

*Licensed Products* means the term that collectively refers to any tobacco product, including liquid nicotine, nicotine product, or vapor-generating electronic device.

*Open display unit*, in the context of the retail sale of tobacco products, means any device, furniture or furnishing within or upon which tobacco products are displayed to customers, and includes but is not limited to any case, rack, shelf, counter, table, desk, kiosk, booth, stand and other surface.

*Person* means any natural person or entity capable of suing and being sued in the State of Florida.

*Recipient* means any person who obtains or attempts to obtain a tobacco product.

*Retail establishment* means any place of business where tobacco products are available for sale to the general public. Retail establishment includes but is not limited to grocery stores, tobacco products shops, convenience stores, liquor stores, gasoline service stations, bars, restaurants other place at which sales of tobacco products are made to purchasers.

*Self-service display or placement* means the open display or placement of tobacco products to which the public has access without the intervention of the vendor, store owner or other store employee.

*Smoking* means inhaling, exhaling, burning, carrying or possessing any lighted tobacco product, including cigarettes, cigars, pipe tobacco, and any other lighted tobacco product or inhaling, heating or igniting a vapor-generating electronic device which creates a vapor of liquid nicotine or other substances mixed with propylene glycol which can be inhaled in simulation of smoking.

*Tobacco products* means any product containing, made or derived from tobacco or nicotine, whether natural or synthetic, that is intended for human consumption or is likely to be consumed, whether chewed, smoked, absorbed, dissolved, inhaled, snorted, sniffed, or ingested by other means, or any component, part or accessory of a tobacco product, including but not limited to, cigarettes, e-liquids, gels, cigars, cheroots; stogies, perique, granulated, plug cut, crimp cut, ready rubbed and other smoking tobacco, snuff, snuff flour, Cavendish, plug and twist tobacco, fine cut and all other forms of tobacco. Tobacco products include vapor-generating electronic devices. Tobacco products also include any component or accessory used in the consumption of tobacco, whether or not they contain nicotine, including but not limited to filters, cartridges, pods, pens, rolling papers, blunt, hemp wraps or pipes. Tobacco products do not include any product that is approved by the United States Food and Drug Administration for sale as a prescription tobacco-cessation product to assist tobacco users with quitting or reducing tobacco use, or for other medical purposes, and is being marketed and sold solely for such purpose.

*Tobacco retailer or retailer* means any person, partnership, joint venture, society, club, trustee, trust, association, organization, corporation or business that owns, operates or manages any tobacco retail establishment.

*Vapor-generating electronic device* means any product that employs an electronic, chemical, or mechanical means capable of producing vapor or aerosol from a nicotine product or any other substance, including, but not limited to, an electronic cigarette, electronic cigar, electronic cigarillo, electronic pipe, vapor product, e-hookahs or other similar device or product, any replacement cartridge for such device; and any other container of nicotine in a solution or other substance form intended to be used with or within an electronic cigarette, an electronic cigar, an electronic cigarillo, an electronic pipe, a vape pen, an electronic hookah, or other similar device or product. The term includes any component, part or accessory of the device and also includes substance intended to be aerosolized or vaporized during the use of the device, whether or not the substance contains nicotine.

*Vendor assisted* means the customer has no access to tobacco products without the assistance of the vendor, store owner or other store employee.

**~~Sec. 87.134. Distribution License required.~~**

~~87.134.A. — No person or business shall sell or offer to sell any tobacco products within the unincorporated area of Martin County without first having obtained a distribution license pursuant to this article.~~

~~87.134.B. — A distribution license shall not be issued to any person for a location that is within 1000 feet of any public high school, middle school, or elementary school, as measured by the shortest line from the property line of the premises to be licensed and the nearest property line of the school. This restriction does not apply to a location that sold tobacco products prior to the effective date of this Ordinance.~~

**~~Sec. 87.135. License application.~~**

~~87.135.A. — No distribution license shall be issued except upon written application to the Martin County Tax Collector on the form provided by the County.~~

~~87.135.B. — The application must contain the full name and address of the retailer; the name of the business owner, the street address of the premises to be licensed; and any additional information the County deems necessary.~~

~~87.135.C. — If a retailer has multiple premises where tobacco products are to be distributed, a separate license for each premises must be obtained.~~

~~87.135.D. — Prior to submitting an application to the Tax Collector, the retailer must obtain an acknowledgement from the Growth Management Department of the County that the premises to be licensed is not restricted pursuant to Sec. 87.134.B.~~

**~~Sec. 87.136. License fee.~~**

~~87.136.A. — Fees associated with distribution licenses shall be set by resolution of the Board of County Commissioners.~~

~~87.136.B. — All license fees collected will be deposited into the Prevention of Underaged Tobacco Use Trust Fund established in Section 87.143.~~

~~87.136.C. — Exemption. Any tobacco retailer that has a Retail Tobacco Products Dealer permit issued by the State of Florida, Department of Business and Professional Regulation, Division of Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco is exempt from paying the license fee and will only have to pay the administrative fee charged by the Tax Collector's Office for issuance of the license.~~

**Sec. 87.137. Display of license and sign required.**

- ~~87.137.A. — A copy of the distribution license must be posted and displayed in plain view of the general public on the licensed premises.~~
- ~~87.137.B. — A public awareness sign shall be displayed at each licensed premises in a conspicuous location that is clearly visible to the public and employees of the licensed premises.~~
- ~~87.137.C. — The required public awareness sign must be at least 8.5 inches by 11 inches in size, must be printed in at least 16 point type, and must state the following: “The sale of tobacco and nicotine products to a person under the age of 21 is against the law. Proof of age is required for purchase.”~~
- ~~87.137.D. — Licensees must notify and train all employees on the legal requirements related to the sale of tobacco products and the possible consequences of license violations.~~

**Sec. 87.138. Term, renewal and transfer of license.**

- ~~87.138.A. — Distribution licenses are valid for no more than one year and expire on September 30<sup>th</sup> each year.~~
- ~~87.138.B. — Distribution licenses must be renewed by the retailer annually in order to continue distribution of tobacco products. Licensees that fail to renew prior to October 1<sup>st</sup> will be assessed late fees as establish by Resolution of the Board of County Commissioners.~~
- ~~87.138.C. — A license may not be renewed if it has been previously revoked with no opportunity to reapply pursuant to Section 87.142.B.~~
- ~~87.138.D. — Transfer of a distribution license issued pursuant to this article by any means is prohibited.~~

**Sec. 87.1349. Minimum legal sales age for tobacco products.**

No person or tobacco retailer may sell or offer to sell any tobacco product to any person under the age of 21.

**Sec. 87.13540. Age verification.**

- ~~87.13540.A. Before selling or offering to sell any tobacco product, or products regulated by this article, the retailer shall verify that the recipient is at least 21 years of age.~~
- ~~87.13540.B. Retailers must verify the legal sale age by examining the recipient’s government issued identification.~~

**Sec. 87. 13641. Self-service display and placement prohibited.**

It shall be unlawful for any tobacco retailer to sell, to permit to be sold, to offer for sale or to display any tobacco product by means of self-service display or placement or by any means other than vendor assisted sales.

87.13641.A. Exceptions.

The provisions of this section shall not apply to an establishment that prohibits persons under 21 years of age on the premises.

87.13641.B. Penalties for improper self-service display and placement. Violation of self-service display and placement is a misdemeanor pursuant to F.S. sec. 125.69 and is punishable under said section by imprisonment for up to 60 days, or a fine of up to \$500.00, or both such imprisonment and fine.

**Sec. 87.13742. Enforcement.**

County law enforcement officers may conduct frequent, random and unannounced inspections at locations where tobacco products are distributed to test and ensure compliance with this ordinance.

~~87.1421.A. Penalties. In addition to any penalties specifically mentioned in this article:~~

~~87.132.A.1. Licensees. Any licensee found to have violated this article, or whose employee violates this article, will be subject to the following:~~

Number of Violations	Penalty
<del>1<sup>st</sup> Violation</del>	<del>7 day license suspension and \$500 fine</del>
<del>2<sup>nd</sup> Violation within a 24-month period</del>	<del>30 day license suspension and \$500 fine</del>
<del>3<sup>rd</sup> Violation within a 24-month period</del>	<del>90 day license suspension and \$500 fine</del>
<del>4<sup>th</sup> Violation within a 24-month period</del>	<del>Revocation of license with no option to reapply and \$500 fine</del>

~~87.142.A.2. Distribution without a valid license. Selling or otherwise distributing tobacco products without a valid license in the County is a misdemeanor pursuant to F.S. sec. 125.69 and is punishable by imprisonment for up to 60 days or a fine up to \$500 or both.~~

~~87.142.B. License Revocation~~

~~A tobacco product distribution license may be revoked with no option to reapply whenever it is determined that a licensee has violated this article four times (4) within a 24 month period.~~

87.13742.AC. Exceptions and defenses

The penalties in this article do not apply to a person younger than 21 years old who purchases or attempts to purchase tobacco products while under the direct supervision of County staff or law enforcement for training, education, research, or enforcement purposes.

87.13742.AC.1. Nothing in this article prohibits a person younger than 21 years old from handling tobacco products in the course of lawful employment.

87.13742.AC.2. It shall be an affirmative defense to a violation of this article for a person to have reasonably relied on government-issued identification for proof of age.

**~~Sec. 87.143. Creation of Fund and Accounting.~~**

87.143.A. ~~— The Clerk of the Circuit Court and Comptroller shall keep a record of all monies collected pursuant to this article and Article 7 and shall deposit all monies into the fund entitled "Prevention of Underaged Tobacco Use Trust Fund."~~

87.143.B. ~~— The Clerk of the Circuit Court and Comptroller shall provide the Board of County Commissioners with a monthly report as to the funds collected and deposited into the Prevention of Underaged Tobacco Use Trust Fund and the amount of expenditures from the Prevention of Underaged Tobacco Use Trust Fund.~~

**~~Sec. 87.144. Expenditures.~~**

~~Monies deposited into the Prevention of Underaged Tobacco Use Trust Fund shall be used for the administration of the distribution licenses, enforcement of this article and to financially assist the prevention of underaged tobacco use programs in public and nonpublic schools in Martin County. In order to receive assistance grants from the Prevention of Underaged Tobacco Use Trust Fund, programs shall be selected as recipients on the basis of selection procedures which shall be developed by the County Administrator or designee. Final approval shall be made by the Board of County Commissioners. The terms and conditions of such grants shall be contained in an agreement between the Martin County Board of County Commissioners and the grantee.~~

**Secs. 87.138-87.145. – Reserved.**

**PART 2: CONFLICTING PROVISIONS.**

Special acts of the Florida Legislature applicable only to unincorporated areas of Martin County, County ordinances and County resolutions, or parts thereof, in conflict with this ordinance are hereby superseded by this ordinance to the extent of such conflict.

**PART 3: SEVERABILITY.**

If any portion of this ordinance is for any reason held or declared to be unconstitutional, inoperative or void, by a court of competent jurisdiction, such holding shall not affect the remaining portions of this ordinance. If this ordinance or any provision thereof shall be held to be inapplicable to any person, property or circumstances by a court of competent jurisdiction, such holding shall not affect its applicability to any other person, property or circumstances.

**PART 4: APPLICABILITY.**

This ordinance shall be applicable throughout the unincorporated area of Martin County.

**PART 5: FILING WITH DEPARTMENT OF STATE AND DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE.**

The Clerk shall be and is hereby directed forthwith to scan this Ordinance in accordance with Rule 1B-26.003, Florida Administrative Code, and file same with the Florida Department of State via electronic transmission. The Clerk is further directed to send a certified copy of this Ordinance to the Florida Department of Revenue.

**PART 6: EFFECTIVE DATE.**

This ordinance shall take effect immediately upon filing with the Office of Secretary of State.

**PART 7: CODIFICATION.**

Provisions of this ordinance shall be incorporated in the County Code, except parts 2 to 7 shall not be codified. The word "ordinance" may be changed to "section," "article" or other word, and the sections of this ordinance may be renumbered or re-lettered.

**DULY PASSED AND ADOPTED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF MARTIN COUNTY THIS \_\_\_\_ DAY OF JUNE 2021.**

ATTEST:

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
MARTIN COUNTY, FLORIDA

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CAROLYN TIMMANN, CLERK OF THE  
CIRCUIT COURT AND COMPTROLLER

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STACEY HETHERINGTON, CHAIR

APPROVED AS TO FORM & LEGAL  
SUFFICIENCY:

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SARAH W. WOODS, COUNTY ATTORNEY

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