

# TOBACCO RETAIL LICENSURE

## Support SB 587 and HB 2071

2021

The Oregon Coalition of Local Health Officials requests your support of SB 587 and HB 2071, both of which create a statewide Tobacco Retail Licensure (TRL). TRL ensures that all retailers that engage in the sale of tobacco and e-cigarette products are licensed by the Department of Revenue (DOR).

### Why does Oregon need statewide Tobacco Retail Licensure?

- **Protects Youth:** TRL is an evidence-based tobacco control measure, and it is particularly effective for preventing teen tobacco use.<sup>1</sup> Research shows that most tobacco use begins during a person's teenage years, but strong TRL policies can keep youth from buying tobacco products and can protect young Oregonians, particularly BIPOC youth, from developing harmful habits.<sup>2-7</sup>
- **Compliance:** Without a statewide TRL, ensuring compliance with existing local laws and enforcing a tobacco tax are difficult for a public health system to do.<sup>8</sup>
- **Fairness:** Retailers of other age-restricted products in Oregon must be licensed. Oregon is also one of the few states left that does not have a statewide TRL – it is time for Oregon to catch up.<sup>1</sup>
- **Supports Local Businesses:** TRL gives Local Public Health Authorities the ability to engage with local businesses, educate businesses about TRL, and train these businesses to comply with the law.

### What does Tobacco Retail Licensure do?

#### Licensure

Qualified retailers of tobacco products and inhalant delivery systems must be licensed by the Department of Revenue (DOR) and must renew that license annually. Fees for this licensing are set in rule and do not go over the cost of administration and enforcement.

#### Enforcement

It allows DOR to revoke or refuse to issue a license when a retailer violates the law. It also allows the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) and Local Public Health Authorities to partner together to enforce TRL standards.

#### Local Control

It gives Local Public Health Authorities the ability to provide education and outreach to tobacco retailers about TRL, to enforce TRL in their jurisdictions, and to incorporate current city and county TRL policies into the new standards.

### 2021 Legislative Request:

The Oregon Coalition of Local Health Officials **requests your support of SB 587 and HB 2071 to enact a statewide Tobacco Retail Licensure.** This law will help Oregon's public health system in tobacco control efforts, help Oregon catch up to other states, and protect Oregon's youth from developing harmful habits.



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## References

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