

## HOUSE BILL 38 (T-21)

**UPDATE:** On Wednesday, April 24, House Bill 38 passed out of the House Health and Welfare Committee on a vote of 10-2. There were additional amendments added, including altering the language from purchase to sale, which is one of the main issues of concern to TFL.

The Louisiana Campaign for Tobacco-Free Living (TFL) has been working with coalition partners and Tobacco21.org to refine House Bill 38, also known as Tobacco 21 or T-21, which supports protecting young people from the dangers of tobacco by raising the minimum age to sale tobacco products, alternative nicotine products, and/or vapor products from 18 to 21. The original bill would have allowed the tobacco industry to focus on criminalizing the purchaser of tobacco by youth, making researching and monitoring merchant compliance programs difficult/near impossible, while helping protect tobacco producers from civil liability claims.

TFL, along with other organizations will continue to advocate that Louisiana's Tobacco 21 legislation include the following:

- Holding retailers primarily responsible for complying with the law. Therefore changing the language to read minimum legal sales age,not minimum age to purchase.
- NOT penalizing youth for possession or use but only for misrepresentation of age.
- Requiring clerks to check IDs before the sale of tobacco/vaping products.
- Having a plan for enforcement, conducting ongoing compliance check inspections.•Allocating funding for enforcement inspections, prosecuting violators.•Sets high penalties for violations.
- Providing effective merchant education.
- Allowing local municipalities to enact their own T-21 policies.
- Raising age restrictions on establishments with tobacco vending machines from 18 to 21.