

# PROTECT YOUTH FROM VAPING AND NICOTINE

To learn more about the NC Tobacco 21 Coalition Powered by NCPHA, visit <https://ncpha.com/aboutt21/>

## Support Solly's Law

## HB 430 SB 318

### Why This Matters

#### Financial Consequences:

N.C. risks losing \$5 million in block grant funding for prevention, treatment, and recovery services. Federal enforcement began in December 2025.

#### Youth Tobacco Use is Rising:

North Carolina has seen a sharp increase in youth tobacco use, particularly e-cigarettes. North Carolina ranks 6th in the nation for youth vaping.

#### Early Addiction is Common:

95% of tobacco users start before age 21.

#### Lack of Licensing:

NC is one of only 8 states without a Tobacco Retailer Licensing System, and one of 6 states that hasn't passed a T21 law.

#### Licensing Protects Communities:

Tracks where tobacco products are sold. Holds non-compliant retailers accountable, protecting law-abiding businesses.

#### Prevents Youth Nicotine Addiction:

Helps curb e-cigarette and nicotine product use in schools.

#### Aligns State & Federal Law:

The federal minimum tobacco sales age was raised to 21 in December 2019. As of March 2026, 44 states have aligned with federal law, NC has not.

### Proposed Legislation Will

#### Raise the Minimum Age:

Prohibits the sale of tobacco products by individuals under 21. Requires proof of age for all tobacco sales.

#### Establish a Tobacco Sales Permit:

Retailers must obtain a permit from the N.C. Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) Commission to sell tobacco legally.

#### Strengthen Enforcement:

ABC Commission gains authority to issue permits, impose sanctions, and enforce laws in collaboration with the Alcohol Law Enforcement (ALE) Division. ALE agents and Commission employees can investigate and inspect tobacco retail locations.

#### Increase Compliance Requirements:

Retailers must display signage stating: "NC Law PROHIBITS the sale of tobacco products, vapor products, and components by persons under 21. Proof of age required."

#### Set Legal Penalties:

Class 2 misdemeanor for selling or assisting in selling tobacco to anyone under 21.

