

# **WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE**

## **2026 REGULAR SESSION**

**Introduced**

### **House Bill 4440**

By Delegate Statler

[Introduced January 16, 2026; referred to the  
Committee on Education then the Judiciary]

1 A BILL to amend and reenact §16-9A-3 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating  
2 to permitting law enforcement to issue a citation when a student enrolled in a public school  
3 or public charter school possesses nicotine in those schools.

*Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:*

**ARTICLE            9A.            TOBACCO            USAGE            RESTRICTIONS.**

**§16-9A-3. Sale or gift of tobacco products to persons younger than 21 years of age;  
penalties for first and subsequent offenses; provision of non-criminal, non-  
monetary penalties; consideration of prohibited act as grounds for dismissal;  
possession prohibited by students and penalty.**

1 (a) A person, firm, corporation, or business entity may not sell, give, or furnish, or cause to  
2 be sold, given, or furnished, any tobacco product, in any form, to any person younger than 21  
3 years of age, which shall be verified by a valid driver's license, state identification card, or any valid  
4 and unexpired federally issued identification card such as a passport or military identification card:

5 (b) Any firm, corporation, or business entity that violates the provisions of subsection (a) of  
6 this section and any individual who violates the provisions of subsection (a) of this section is guilty  
7 of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction thereof, shall be fined \$250 for the first offense. Upon any  
8 subsequent violation at the same location or operating unit, the firm, corporation, or business  
9 entity or the individual shall be fined as follows: At least \$500, but not more than \$750 for the  
10 second offense, if it occurs within two years of the first conviction; at least \$750, but not more than  
11 \$1,000 for the third offense, if it occurs within two years of the first conviction; and at least \$2,000,  
12 but not more than \$5,000 for any subsequent offenses, if the subsequent offense occurs within five  
13 years of the first conviction.

14 (c) Any person who violates subsection (a) of this section while acting as a non-  
15 management agent or employee of a retail outlet where tobacco products are sold is subject to  
16 non-criminal, non-monetary penalties, including, but not limited to, education classes, diversion  
17 programs, and community service. The alcohol beverage control commissioner shall promulgate

18 rules for legislative approval pursuant to §29A-3-1 *et seq.* of this code, to establish standards for  
19 education classes, diversion programs, and community service.

20 (d) Any employer who discovers that his or her employee has sold or furnished tobacco  
21 products to any person younger than 21 years of age may dismiss the employee for cause, if the  
22 employer has provided the employee with prior written notice in the workplace that such act or acts  
23 may result in his or her termination from employment.

24 (e) Law enforcement may issue a citation to a student enrolled in a public school or public  
25 charter school in this state when that student possesses nicotine products at the school or  
26 associated school activity, included but not limited to "electronic smoking devices" and "tobacco  
27 products" as otherwise described in §16-9A-2 of this code.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to permit law enforcement to issue a citation when a student enrolled in a public school or public charter school possesses nicotine in those schools.

Strike-throughs indicate language that would be stricken from a heading or the present law and underscoring indicates new language that would be added.