

## CHAPTER 220

## (Senate Bill 6)

AN ACT concerning

**Cigarette Sales in Packages of Less Than 20 Cigarettes**

FOR the purpose of prohibiting the purchase by certain persons from tobacco product manufacturers and the sale, dispensing, distribution, and giving away of cigarettes in packages of less than a certain number per package; prohibiting wholesalers from selling, reselling, distributing, dispensing, or giving away to any person in this State cigarettes in packages of less than a certain number per package; providing that the State Comptroller shall enforce the provisions of this Act; providing for the definition of certain terms; ~~requiring the denial, suspension, or revocation of~~ authorizing the Comptroller to deny, suspend, or revoke a cigarette license for violations of this Act; and relating generally to the sale and distribution of cigarettes in packages of less than a certain number per package.

BY adding to

Article - Commercial Law

Section 11-5A-01 through ~~11-5A-04~~ 11-5A-03, inclusive, to be under the new subtitle "Subtitle 5A. Cigarette Sales of Less Than 20 Per Package"

Annotated Code of Maryland

(1990 Replacement Volume and 1999 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article - Business Regulation

Section 16-210(a)

Annotated Code of Maryland

(1998 Replacement Volume and 1999 Supplement)

## Preamble

WHEREAS, The Master Tobacco Settlement Agreement entered into by 46 states, including Maryland, on November 23, 1998 with the five largest tobacco manufacturers in the United States, among its many provisions, prohibits the sale and manufacture of cigarettes in packages of less than 20 cigarettes; and

WHEREAS, This prohibition terminates on December 31, 2001; and

WHEREAS, The settlement agreement also prohibits tobacco manufacturers from opposing state legislation prohibiting the sale of small cigarette packages; and

WHEREAS, If the State of Maryland wishes to continue the ban on small cigarette packages, it is necessary for the State to pass separate legislation on the matter; and