

BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
Article – State Finance and Procurement
Section 7-101(a) and (b)
Annotated Code of Maryland
(1995 Replacement Volume and 1999 Supplement)

BY adding to
Article – State Finance and Procurement
Section 7-114
Annotated Code of Maryland
(1995 Replacement Volume and 1999 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
Article – State Finance and Procurement
Section 7-121 and 7-317
Annotated Code of Maryland
(1995 Replacement Volume and 1999 Supplement)

Preamble

WHEREAS, Cigarette smoking is the leading cause of preventable death in the United States; and

WHEREAS, Each year the use of tobacco products ~~kill~~ kills over 7,500 Marylanders; and

WHEREAS, Tobacco is a risk factor for the top four leading causes of death in Maryland (heart disease, stroke, cancer, and pulmonary disease); and

WHEREAS, Among Maryland adolescents, smoking prevalence increased during the 1990s after several years of decline; and

WHEREAS, In 1997, the direct and indirect costs of tobacco related diseases increased by 2% and cost Marylanders over \$1.8 billion ~~dollars~~; and

WHEREAS, Certain demographic groups remain at higher risk for tobacco use and often bear a disproportionate share of the human and economic cost of using tobacco products; and

WHEREAS, Tobacco is a leading risk factor in the development of many cancers, including cancer of the cervix, pancreas, kidney, bladder, esophagus, oral cavity and pharynx, larynx, and lung; and

WHEREAS, No single factor determines patterns of tobacco use: the patterns result from a complex interaction of multiple factors, such as socioeconomic status, cultural characteristics, stress, biological events, targeted marketing, tobacco pricing, and varying capacities of local communities to launch and sustain comprehensive tobacco control activities; and