



BERGEN COUNTY EXECUTIVE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BERGEN COUNTY APPROVES BAN ON E-CIGARETTES

County's restrictions among the first in the US

(HACKENSACK) The Bergen County Board of Chosen Freeholders unanimously passed a resolution tonight which prohibits the use of electronic cigarettes, also known as *e-cigarettes*, at all county parks where children are present and inside county buildings and county vehicles.

“Bergen County’s restrictions on the use of e-cigarettes are effective immediately,” said Bergen County Freeholder Vernon Walton, who sponsored the resolution. “We believe our ban is the first of its kind to go into effect in the country. The Freeholder Board felt it was necessary to enact such a ban in hopes of educating people about the possible dangers of these devices.”

Suffolk County, New York passed a ban on the indoor use of e-cigarettes in August. Those restrictions go into effect November 1. New Jersey Assemblywoman Connie Wagner (D-38th District) will soon introduce state legislation to ban e-cigarettes in all enclosed indoor places of public access and workplaces. The Paramus Board of Health will introduce a similar ordinance on October 26.

Electronic cigarettes, which are marketed as a ‘healthier’ alternative to cigarette smoking, are battery-operated devices designed to look like and to be used in the same manner as conventional cigarettes. Instead of tobacco, electronic cigarette cartridges are filled with liquid nicotine, flavor and other chemicals.

“Because e-cigarettes are available in different flavors including apple, mint, banana, strawberry and chocolate, public health experts are concerned that e-cigarettes could entice teens to try other tobacco products, including conventional cigarettes,” said Bergen County Freeholder Julie O’Brien. “They are sold without any legal age restrictions. As a mother and a grandmother, this concerns me greatly. I do not want this product around our children, because it could lead to an increase in nicotine addiction among youth.”

Recent information from the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) suggests that e-cigarettes may contain cancer-causing substances in their cartridges as well as a toxic chemical found in antifreeze. E-cigarettes do not contain any health warnings, such as those on FDA-approved nicotine replacement products or conventional cigarettes.