

[SB259](#) bans the manufacture, sale, and shipment of flavored tobacco products into or within Maryland. The bill applies to electronic smoking devices, and it also prohibits the sale of flavored tobacco products through vending machines. SB259 sets an evidentiary standard for flavored tobacco, treating any licensee's public statement that a cigarette has the taste or smell other than tobacco is presumptive evidence that the cigarette is a flavored tobacco product. People who violate this bill can be subject to a fine up to \$1000, imprisonment of up to thirty days, or both. SB259 is an emergency measure, meaning that the bill needs to pass by a three-fifths majority in the Senate and the House. The hearing was held on Thursday, February 16 in front of the Senate's Finance Committee.

[HB1000](#) permits holders of a common carrier permit to deliver premium cigars, tobacco, or pipe tobacco to consumers and licensed retailers. The permittee must log all deliveries, and the permittee must create a procedure for employees to verify the age of delivery recipients. HB1000 also grants the ATC and MDH the authority to conduct unannounced inspections and searches of retailer premises without a warrant. Lastly, HB1000 mandates that, if the ATC receives any proceeds from a Comptroller-run auction of seized contraband, those proceeds must be sent to the Comptroller. The hearing was on Monday, February 20 in front of the House's Economic Matters Committee.

[HB315](#) and [SB817](#) require the owners of a condominium or cooperative housing corporation to develop a smoking policy. The policy must: 1) indicate where residents can and cannot smoke on the property; 2) create a procedure for filing complaints; and 3) set penalties or fines for violating the policy. These bills do not prevent counties or municipalities from enforcing their more stringent smoking policies for these multi-family dwellings. The hearing for HB315 was held on Tuesday, February 21 in front of the House's Environment and Transportation Committee. The hearing for SB817 will be tomorrow, February 28 in front of the Senate's Judicial Proceedings Committee.

[SB795](#) creates an alcoholic beverage licensing scheme for cigar lounges in Wicomico County. Even though this bill is a local one, SB795 carves out an exception to the Clean Indoor Air Act. The Clean Indoor Air Act will no longer apply in indoor public places owned by these licensees in Wicomico County. The hearing was on Friday, February 24 in front of the Senate's Finance Committee.

A Fiscal and Policy Note is available for each bill.