SENATE BILL NO. 970

June 17, 2020, Introduced by Senator RUNESTAD and referred to the Committee on Finance.

A bill to amend 1993 PA 327, entitled "Tobacco products tax act,"

by amending sections 2 and 11 (MCL 205.422 and 205.431), section 2 as amended by 2012 PA 188 and section 11 as amended by 2016 PA 86.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT:

- 1 Sec. 2. As used in this act:
- 2 (a) "Cigar" means any roll of tobacco wrapped in leaf tobacco
 3 or in any substance containing tobacco. Cigar does not include a
 4 cigarette.
- 5 (b) (a) "Cigarette" means a roll for smoking made wholly or in

- 1 part of tobacco, irrespective of size or shape and irrespective of
- 2 the tobacco being flavored, adulterated, or mixed with any other
- 3 ingredient, which roll has a wrapper or cover made of paper or any
- 4 other material. Cigarette does not include cigars.
- 5 (c) (b)—"Cigarette making machine" means any machine or other
- 6 mechanical device which meets all of the following criteria:
- 7 (i) Is capable of being loaded with loose tobacco, cigarette
- 8 tubes or cigarette papers, and any other components related to the
- 9 production of cigarettes, including, but not limited to, cigarette
- 10 filters.
- (ii) Is designed to automatically or mechanically produce,
- 12 roll, fill, dispense, or otherwise generate cigarettes.
- 13 (iii) Is commercial-grade or otherwise designed or suitable for
- 14 commercial use.
- (iv) Is designed to be powered or otherwise operated by a main
- 16 or primary power source other than human power.
- 17 (d) (e) "Commissioner" means the state treasurer.
- 18 (e) "Container" or "shipping case" means an individual
- 19 receptacle within which a tobacco product or group of tobacco
- 20 products is placed for shipment or distribution, such as a box or a
- 21 tote. A container or shipping case does not include any of the
- 22 following:
- 23 (i) An individual package of cigarettes or cigarette carton.
- 24 (ii) The package or other article containing the tobacco
- 25 product that is sold directly to the ultimate consumer.
- 26 (iii) A bag or similar package containing bulk or loose hookah
- 27 tobacco, pipe tobacco, or roll-your-own cigarette tobacco that a
- 28 retailer uses to fill bins, barrels, or tubs located at the
- 29 retailer's place of business from which either the retailer sells a

- specified quantity of those tobacco products or a blend or mixture of those tobacco products to the consumer, or the consumer removes or draws a specified quantity of those tobacco products or a blend or mixture of those tobacco products for purchase at retail from
 - (iv) A pallet or similar article or device upon which an individual receptacle or group of receptacles, containing the tobacco products, is placed for shipment or distribution.

the retailer.

- (ν) Property used as a protective covering for, or to keep items together during shipment or distribution, a receptacle or group of receptacles within which the tobacco product is placed for shipment or distribution including shrink wrap or other wrapping materials, but excluding the protective covering which forms, gives shape to, or otherwise constitutes the receptacle within which the tobacco product is placed for shipment or distribution.
- (f) (d)—"Counterfeit cigarette" means a cigarette in an individual package of cigarettes or other container with a false manufacturing label or a cigarette in an individual package of cigarettes or other container with a counterfeit stamp.
- (g) (e)—"Counterfeit cigarette paper" means a cigarette paper with a false manufacturing label or that has not been printed, manufactured, or made by authority of the trademark owner.
- (h) (f)—"Counterfeit stamp" means any stamp, label, or print, indicium, or character, that evidences, or purports to evidence, the payment of any tax levied under this act and that has not been printed, manufactured, or made by authority of the department as provided in this act and has not been issued, sold, or circulated by the department.
 - (i) (g) "Department" means the department of treasury.

- 1 (j) (h) "Financially sound" means a determination by the
 2 department that the wholesaler or unclassified acquirer is able to
 3 pay for its stamps the tax due on the tobacco products it sells,
 4 imports, or acquires, as applicable in the ordinary course of
 5 business based on criteria including, but not limited to, all of
- 6 the following:
- 7 (i) Past filing and payment history with the department.
- 8 (ii) Outstanding liabilities.

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- 9 (iii) Review of current financial statements including, but not 10 limited to, balance sheets and income statements.
- 11 (iv) Duration that the wholesaler or unclassified acquirer has been licensed under this act.
 - (v) Ability to pay for its stamps, if required under this act.
 - (k) (i)—"Gray market cigarette" means any cigarette the package of which bears any statement, label, stamp, sticker, or notice indicating that the manufacturer did not intend the cigarettes to be sold, distributed, or used in the United States, including, but not limited to, a label stating "For Export Only", "U.S. Tax Exempt", "For Use Outside U.S.", or similar wording.
 - (1) (j)—"Gray market cigarette paper" means any cigarette paper the package of which bears any statement, label, stamp, sticker, or notice indicating that the manufacturer did not intend the cigarette papers to be sold, distributed, or used in the United States, including, but not limited to, a label stating "For Export Only", "U.S. Tax Exempt", "For Use Outside U.S.", "For Use in (another country) Only", or similar wording.
- 27 (m) "Hookah tobacco" means tobacco sold in loose or bulk form 28 that is intended for consumption by smoking in a hookah and that is 29 flavored with honey, molasses, fruit, or other flavors. Hookah

- tobacco includes those products commonly known or referred to as
 arghile, argileh, shisha, hubble-bubble, or goza.
- 3 (n) "Hookah" means a device used for smoking hookah tobacco
 4 that consists of a tube connected to a chamber where the smoke is
 5 cooled passing through water.
- (o) (k)—"Individual package" means an individual packet or
 pack used to contain or to convey cigarettes to the consumer.
- 8 Individual package does not include cartons, cases, or shipping or9 storage containers that contain smaller packaging units of
- 10 cigarettes.

- 11 (p) (l)—"Licensee" means a person licensed under this act.
- 12 (q) (m) "Manufacturer" means any of the following:
 - (i) A-Except as otherwise provided in this subdivision, a person, who manufactures or produces a tobacco product.
 - (ii) A person who operates or who permits any other person to operate a cigarette making machine in this state for the purpose of producing, filling, rolling, dispensing, or otherwise generating cigarettes. A person who is a manufacturer under this subparagraph shall constitute a nonparticipating manufacturer for purposes of sections 6c and 6d. A person who operates or otherwise uses a machine or other mechanical device, other than a cigarette making machine, to produce, roll, fill, dispense, or otherwise generate cigarettes shall not be considered a manufacturer as long as the cigarettes are produced or otherwise generated in that person's dwelling and for that person's self-consumption. For purposes of this act, "self-consumption" means production for personal consumption or use and not for sale, resale, or any other profitmaking endeavor. A person who does any of the following shall not be considered a manufacturer:

(A) Mixes or blends 2 or more different tobacco products to create a custom mix or blend of those products if each of the constituent tobacco products mixed or blended together are finished tobacco products that the person could or does otherwise sell to consumers and upon which the tax under this act has been paid.

- (B) Places hookah tobacco into a fruit, bowl, or other receptacle in which hookah tobacco is placed and that is heated when smoking hookah tobacco through the use of a hookah.
- 9 (C) Creates or produces what is commonly known as a fruit head 10 for use in a hookah.
 - (D) Rolls a cigar for his or her own self-consumption.
- (r) (n) "Noncigarette smoking tobacco" means tobacco sold in
 loose or bulk form that is intended for consumption by smoking and
 also includes roll-your-own cigarette tobacco, hookah tobacco, pipe
 tobacco, or a wrap.
- (s) (e) "Person" means an individual, partnership, fiduciary,
 association, limited liability company, corporation, or other legal
 entity.
 - (t) "Pipe tobacco" means any tobacco that, because of its appearance, type, packaging, or labeling, is suitable for use and likely to be offered to, or purchased by, consumers as tobacco to smoke in a pipe.
 - (u) (p) "Place of business" means a place where a tobacco product is sold or where a tobacco product is brought or kept for the purpose of sale or consumption, including a vessel, airplane, train, or vending machine.
- 27 (v) (q) "Retailer" means a person other than a transportation
 28 company who operates a place of business in this state, or who
 29 directs, manages, or has control over the day-to-day operations of

- 1 a place of business in this state, for the purpose of making sales
- 2 of a tobacco product at retail. A person described in this
- 3 subdivision qualifies as a retailer regardless of whether that
- 4 person owns the place of business.
- 5 (w) "Roll-your-own cigarette tobacco" means any tobacco which,
- 6 because of its appearance, type, packaging, or labeling is suitable
- 7 for use and likely to, be offered to, or purchased by, consumers as
- 8 tobacco for making cigarettes.
- 9 (x) (r) "Sale" means a transaction by which the ownership of
- 10 tangible personal property is transferred for consideration and
- 11 applies also to use, gifts, exchanges, barter, and theft.
- 12 (y) (s) "Secondary wholesaler" means a person who sells a
- 13 tobacco product for resale, who purchases a tobacco product from a
- 14 wholesaler or unclassified acquirer licensed under this act, and
- 15 who maintains an established place of business in this state where
- 16 a substantial portion of the business is the sale of tobacco
- 17 products and related merchandise at wholesale, and where at all
- 18 times a substantial stock of tobacco products and related
- 19 merchandise is available to retailers for resale.
- 20 (z) (t) "Smokeless tobacco" means snuff, snus, chewing
- 21 tobacco, moist snuff, and any other tobacco that is intended to be
- 22 used or consumed, whether heated, chewed, absorbed, dissolved,
- 23 inhaled, snorted, sniffed, or ingested, by any means other than
- 24 smoking or combustion.
- 25 (aa) (u)—"Stamp" means a distinctive character, indication, or
- 26 mark, as determined by the department, attached or affixed to an
- 27 individual package of cigarettes by mechanical device or other
- 28 means authorized by the department to indicate that the tax imposed
- 29 under this act has been paid.

- (cc) (w)—"Tobacco product" means a product containing any amount of tobacco regardless of form including, but not limited to, cigarettes, cigars, noncigarette smoking tobacco, or smokeless tobacco. A tobacco product does not include drugs, devices, or combination products authorized for sale by the united states food and drug administration, as those terms are defined in the federal food, drug, and cosmetic act, 21 USC 351 to 360fff-7.
 - (dd) (x)—"Transportation company" means a person operating, or supplying to common carriers, cars, boats, or other vehicles for the transportation or accommodation of passengers and engaged in the sale of a tobacco product at retail.
 - (ee) (y)—"Transporter" means a person importing or transporting into this state, or transporting in this state, a tobacco product obtained from a source located outside this state, or from any person not duly licensed under this act. Transporter does not include an interstate commerce carrier licensed by the interstate commerce commission, or its successor federal agency, to carry commodities in interstate commerce, or a licensee maintaining a warehouse or place of business outside of this state if the warehouse or place of business is licensed under this act.
 - (ff) (z)—"Unclassified acquirer" means a person, except a transportation company or a purchaser at retail from a retailer licensed under the general sales tax act, 1933 PA 167, MCL 205.51 to 205.78, who imports or acquires a tobacco product from a source

- 1 other than a wholesaler or secondary wholesaler licensed under this
- 2 act for use, sale, or distribution in this state. Unclassified
- 3 acquirer also means a person who purchases or receives cigars,
- 4 noncigarette smoking tobacco, or smokeless tobacco products
- 5 directly from a manufacturer licensed under this act or from
- 6 another source outside this state, which source is not licensed
- 7 under this act. An unclassified acquirer also includes a person not
- 8 located in this state that sells a tobacco product, through a mail
- 9 order, catalog sale, telephone order, internet sale, or any other
- 10 means, to a retailer or other person in this state that is not
- 11 licensed under this act as a wholesaler, unclassified acquirer
- 12 other than a manufacturer, or secondary wholesaler. An unclassified
- 13 acquirer does not include a wholesaler.
- 14 (gg) (aa) "Vending machine operator" means a person who
- 15 operates 1 or more vending machines in this state for the sale of a
- 16 tobacco product and who purchases a tobacco product from a
- 17 manufacturer, licensed wholesaler, or secondary wholesaler.
- (hh) (bb) "Wholesale price" means the actual price paid to a
- 19 seller for a tobacco product, including any tax, by a wholesaler or
- 20 unclassified acquirer to a manufacturer, excluding any discounts or
- 21 reductions.in order to acquire that tobacco product from the
- 22 seller. The wholesale price includes any tax, fee, licensing, or
- 23 other charge, excluding shipping or handling charges, reflected on
- 24 the invoice, bill of sale, purchase order or other document
- 25 evidencing the sale or purchase of the tobacco product. Wholesale
- 26 price does not include any shipping or handling charges. When items
- 27 or products, other than tobacco products, are included in a
- 28 transaction for the purchase of tobacco products by a wholesaler or
- 29 unclassified acquirer, charges for those products or items that are

- 1 not tobacco products may be excluded from the wholesale price if
- 2 separately stated on the invoice, bill of sale, purchase order, or
- 3 other document evidencing the sale or purchase. The wholesale price
- 4 shall not be reduced due to any rebate, trade allowance, licensing
- 5 or exclusivity agreement, volume or other discount, or any other
- 6 reduction given by the seller or passed on to or otherwise received
- 7 by the wholesaler or unclassified acquirer from the seller. If the
- 8 wholesaler or unclassified acquirer has a relationship as described
- 9 in section 267(b) of the internal revenue code of 1986, 26 USC 267,
- 10 with the seller, the department may establish the wholesale price
- 11 for the tobacco products based on the best available information or
- 12 any other reasonable proxy for the wholesale price including, but
- 13 not limited to, the wholesale price paid by other taxpayers for
- 14 those tobacco products within the past 4 years.
- (ii) (cc) "Wholesaler" means a person who purchases all or
- 16 part of his or her its tobacco products from a manufacturer , and
- 17 who sells 75% or more of those tobacco products to others for
- 18 resale. , and who maintains an established business where
- 19 substantially all of the business is the sale of tobacco products
- 20 or cigarettes and related merchandise at wholesale and where at all
- 21 times a substantial stock of tobacco products and related
- 22 merchandise is available to retailers for resale. Wholesaler
- 23 includes a chain of stores retailing a tobacco product to the
- 24 consumer if 75% of its stock of tobacco products is purchased
- 25 directly from the manufacturer.
- 26 (jj) "Wrap" means an individual tobacco wrapper that is made
- 27 wholly or in part from tobacco, including reconstituted tobacco,
- 28 whether in the form of tobacco leaf, sheet, or tube, if the wrap is
- 29 designed to be offered, or is offered, for sale to consumers to

- 1 create or to use as a component part of a tobacco product.
- 2 Sec. 11. (1) A person , either as principal or agent, shall
- 3 not sell or solicit a sale of a tobacco product to be shipped,
- 4 mailed, or otherwise imported, sent or brought into the state, to a
- 5 person not a licensed manufacturer, licensed wholesaler, licensed
- 6 secondary wholesaler, licensed vending machine operator, licensed
- 7 unclassified acquirer, licensed transporter, or licensed
- 8 transportation company, licensed under this act, unless the tobacco
- 9 product is to be sold to or through a licensed wholesaler **or**
- 10 unclassified acquirer other than a manufacturer, licensed under
- 11 this act.
- 12 (2) A person, that is not licensed under this act, shall not
- 13 order, purchase, or otherwise engage in a transaction to acquire a
- 14 tobacco product that is to be shipped, mailed, imported, sent, or
- 15 brought into this state unless that tobacco product is to be sold
- 16 to or through a wholesaler or unclassified acquirer other than a
- 17 manufacturer, licensed under this act. A tobacco product ordered,
- 18 purchased, or acquired by a person in violation of this subsection
- 19 is contraband subject to seizure and forfeiture under section 9. A
- 20 person who violates this subsection shall be considered to be in
- 21 control or possession of a tobacco product in violation of this act
- 22 for purposes of section 8(1), regardless of whether that tobacco
- 23 product has been sold, consumed, or otherwise disposed of. The 50
- 24 cent per cigar limitation on tax under section 7(1)(q) shall not
- 25 apply to, or otherwise be taken into account, for purposes of
- 26 determining the liability for taxes and penalties under section
- 27 8(1) arising from a violation of this subsection.
- 28 (3) Except as provided in section 8(2) regarding
- 29 representatives of a licensed manufacturer, a retailer in this

- 1 state shall not purchase, possess, acquire for resale at retail, or
- 2 sell a tobacco product in this state unless that tobacco product
- 3 was purchased or otherwise acquired directly from a wholesaler,
- 4 unclassified acquirer other than a manufacturer, or secondary
- 5 wholesaler, licensed under this act. A retailer who violates this
- 6 subsection shall be considered to be in control or possession of a
- 7 tobacco product in violation of this act for purposes of section
- 8 (1), regardless whether that tobacco product has been sold,
- 9 consumed, or otherwise disposed of. The 50 cent per cigar
- 10 limitation on tax under section 7(1)(g) shall not apply to, or
- 11 otherwise be taken into account, for purposes of determining the
- 12 liability for taxes and penalties under section 8(1) arising from a
- 13 violation of this subsection.
- 14 (4) A retailer shall be considered to have purchased or
- 15 otherwise acquired a tobacco product in compliance with subsection
- 16 (3) if all of the following conditions are met:
- 17 (a) The retailer obtains a copy of the license of the
- 18 wholesaler, secondary wholesaler, or unclassified acquirer other
- 19 than a manufacturer at the time of purchase or acquisition.
- 20 (b) The license described in subdivision (a) was not expired
- 21 at the time the tobacco product was purchased or otherwise acquired
- 22 by the retailer.
- (c) The copy of the license is preserved by the retailer in
- 24 the same manner, for the same period of time, and offered for
- 25 inspection as required of other statements and records under
- 26 section 6.
- 27 (5) Notwithstanding anything in this act to the contrary, a
- 28 licensee may provide a copy of its license to a retailer for
- 29 purposes of this section. A retailer that obtains a copy of the

- license for a particular licensee under this section is not required to obtain another copy of the license for subsequent
- 3 purchases or acquisitions of tobacco products from that licensee
- 4 which are made during the active license year and prior to the
- 5 expiration of that license.

6 (6) (2) All sales conducted through the Internet, internet, by 7 telephone, or in a mail-order transaction shall not be completed 8 unless, before each delivery of cigarettes tobacco products is 9 made, whether through the mail, through a transportation company, 10 or through any other delivery system, the seller has obtained from 11 the purchaser an affirmation that includes a copy of a valid 12 government-issued document that confirms the purchaser's name, address, and date of birth showing that the purchaser is at least 13 14 the legal minimum age to purchase cigarettes; tobacco products; 15 that the cigarettes tobacco products purchased are not intended for 16 consumption by an individual who is younger than the legal minimum 17 age to purchase cigarettes; tobacco products; and a written 18 statement signed by the purchaser that affirms the purchaser's 19 address and that the purchaser is at least the minimum legal age to 20 purchase cigarettes. tobacco products. The statement shall also 21 confirm that the purchaser understands that signing another 22 person's name to the affirmation is illegal; that the sale of 23 cigarettes tobacco products to individuals under the legal minimum 24 purchase age is illegal; and that the purchase of cigarettes 25 tobacco products by individuals under the legal minimum purchase age is illegal under the laws of the state of Michigan. The seller 26 shall verify the information contained in the affirmation provided 27

by the purchaser against a commercially available database of

governmental records, or obtain a photocopy, fax copy, or other

- image of the valid, government-issued identification stating thedate of birth or age of the purchaser.
- (7) (3)—All invoices, bills of lading, sales receipts, or 3 other documents related to cigarette-tobacco product sales 4 5 conducted through the internet, by telephone, or in a mail-order 6 transaction shall contain the current seller's valid Michigan sales 7 tax license number or use tax registration number, business name 8 and address of the seller, and a statement as to whether all sales 9 taxes or use taxes, as applicable, and taxes levied under this act 10 have been paid. All packages of cigarettes tobacco products shipped 11 from a cigarette tobacco product seller to purchasers who reside in Michigan shall clearly print or stamp the package with the word 12 "CICARETTES" "TOBACCO PRODUCTS" on the outside of all sides of the 13 14 package so it is clearly visible to the shipper. In addition, the 15 package shall contain an externally visible and clearly legible notice located on the same side of the package as the address to 16
 - "IF THESE CICARETTES TOBACCO PRODUCTS HAVE BEEN SHIPPED TO YOU FROM A SELLER LOCATED OUTSIDE OF THE STATE IN WHICH YOU RESIDE, THE SELLER HAS REPORTED UNDER FEDERAL LAW THE SALE OF THESE CICARETTES TOBACCO PRODUCTS TO OUR STATE TAX COLLECTION AGENCY, INCLUDING YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS. YOU ARE LEGALLY RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL APPLICABLE UNPAID STATE TAXES ON THESE CICARETTES."TOBACCO PRODUCTS."

which the package is delivered, as follows:

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If an order is made as a result of advertisement over the Internet, internet, the tobacco retailer shall request the electronic mail address of the purchaser and shall receive payment by credit card or check before shipping. This subsection and subsection (2)—(6) do not apply to sales by wholesalers and unclassified acquirers.

- - (9) (5)—Beginning November 1, 2012, a retailer that is not licensed as an unclassified acquirer, retail importer of tobacco products other than cigarettes, not otherwise licensed or required to be licensed under this act, shall post a sign, visible to the public inside the retail establishment that informs purchasers of cigars through catalog sales or Internet internet sales of their responsibility to pay all applicable unpaid state taxes on those cigars.
 - (10) $\frac{(6)}{(6)}$ As used in this section:

- (a) "Computer" means any connected, directly interoperable or interactive device, equipment, or facility that uses a computer program or other instructions to perform specific operations, including logical, arithmetic, or memory functions with or on computer data or a computer program, and that can store, retrieve, alter, or communicate the results of the operations to a person, computer program, computer, computer system, or computer network.
- (b) "Computer network" means the interconnection of hardwire or wireless communication lines with a computer through remote terminals or a complex consisting of 2 or more interconnected computers.
- (c) "Computer program" means a series of internal or external instructions communicated in a form acceptable to a computer that directs the functioning of a computer, computer system, or computer network in a manner designed to provide or produce products or results from the computer, computer system, or computer network.

- (d) "Computer system" means related, connected or unconnected,
 computer equipment, devices, software, or hardware.
- (e) "Credit card" means a card or device issued by a person
 licensed under 1984 PA 379, MCL 493.101 to 493.114, or under the
 consumer financial services act, 1988 PA 161, MCL 487.2051 to
 487.2072, or issued by a depository financial institution as
 defined in section 1a of the mortgage brokers, lenders, and
 services licensing act, 1987 PA 173, MCL 445 1651a, under a credit
- 8 services licensing act, 1987 PA 173, MCL 445.1651a, under a credit
 9 card arrangement.
- 10 (f) "Device" includes, but is not limited to, an electronic,
 11 magnetic, electrochemical, biochemical, hydraulic, optical, or
 12 organic object that performs input, output, or storage functions by
 13 the manipulation of electronic, magnetic, or other impulses.
- 14 (g) "Internet" means the connection to the World Wide Web
 15 through the use of a computer, a computer network, or a computer
 16 system.
- 17 (h) "Sale conducted through the Internet" internet" means a
 18 sale of, a solicitation to sell, a purchase of, or an offer to
 19 purchase cigarettes tobacco products conducted all or in part by
 20 accessing an Internet internet website.