

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

FILE NUMBER: H.F. 561

DATE: March 3, 2004

Version: Fourth Engrossment

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Subject: Cigarette sales, licensing

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Overview

Under Minnesota Statutes, chapter 461, a city or town may license and regulate the retail sales of tobacco, and the county may license and regulate in the unorganized territory of the county and in any city or town that does not regulate and license. This bill amends provisions relating to administrative penalties for unlawful sale of tobacco to minors and prohibits local ordinances that set greater penalties.

Section

- 1** **Administrative penalties; licensees.** Sets a permitted range of administrative penalties for sale of tobacco to minors. (Under current law, the penalties are set amounts with the local option for greater penalties.) Permits suspension or revocation of a tobacco license only if the licensee fails to annually train and test or discipline employees in tobacco sale laws, fails to adopt and enforce a written policy to prevent tobacco sales to minors, or fails a third compliance check while participating in a defined retailer program. Requires the local licensing authority to consider the licensee's policies and procedures used to prevent sales to minors as mitigating circumstances in setting the penalty and length of license suspension.
- 2** **Effect on local ordinance; notice.** Prohibits a licensing authority from imposing a penalty greater than that set in section 1 or the current law that is not amended in this bill.
- 3** **Effective date; application.** Sections 1 and 2 are effective day after enactment and apply to administrative penalties imposed on or after that date.