

August 11, 2000

TO: T. J. Payne

FROM: R. L. Mozingo

SUBJECT: Weekly Status Report - State Government Relations

- Marketing, Sales, Advertising Restrictions

The California Senate bill that would ban self-service displays of tobacco products statewide has passed in the Senate and got a double referral in the Assembly to the Government Operations and Judiciary Committees. The bill could be heard as early as 8/18.

The Massachusetts legislature recessed from formal session without taking action on legislation to increase the minimum age-of-purchase for tobacco products from 18 to 19. The bill remains on the House third reading calendar and may be acted upon in the fall.

The Camarillo, California City Council voted unanimously to adopt an ordinance that prohibits self-service tobacco displays in retail outlets. The ordinance also bans vending machines except in areas where minors are denied access. The ordinance goes into effect on 8/25.

The Orinda, California City Council adopted an ordinance that restricts tobacco advertising within 2,500 feet of any school or playground and bans self-service displays in retail outlets. The ordinance also requires retailers to obtain a license if found in violation of selling to a minor.

- MSA Legislation

An initiative has been qualified for the November ballot in Oregon that would direct the state's MSA money into a trust fund dedicated to the Oregon Health Plan, which provides health care for about 300,000 low-income residents. That measure will compete with another one referred to the ballot by the legislature, which would direct the money into a trust fund for six purposes: county health programs, senior and disabled transportation, low-income housing, smoking prevention programs, Oregon Health Sciences University and shelter for domestic violence victims.

- Fire Safe

The fire-safe bill in California, which has already passed in the Senate, has been referred to the Assembly Government Operations Committee. On 8/9, David Townsend (RJR), Chris Coggins (Lorillard) and Jim Goold (Covington & Burling) briefed the chairman of that committee on the issue. The briefing went well, and the chairman requested a second briefing session on 8/10 that also went well. We expect the bill could be heard in committee on 8/18.

The New York Assembly Speaker sent legislation to the governor that was passed by the legislature requiring cigarettes sold in the state of New York to meet as yet unspecified fire-safety standards. The Governor has until August 16 to take action on the bill but is expected to sign it into law.

- Smoking Restrictions

Dennis Rivera, head of New York City Local 1099, the Union of Health Care Workers, has pledged his organization's support for the effort to ban smoking in small restaurants and bars in New York City. A group led by Rivera placed a full-page ad in a recent edition of the New York Times urging city councilmen to pass the proposed ordinance. Rivera was the prime mover behind the 55-cent per pack cigarette tax increase enacted last December by the New York legislature. His union has a huge political war chest that could spell trouble for opponents of the ban. The city council is expected to take the issue up this fall.

Following an initial hearing on the proposal, the Albany, Oregon City Council has decided not to pursue an ordinance that would have banned smoking in all workplaces, including restaurants and bars, and banned self-service displays of tobacco products.

The Gresham, Oregon City Council gave first reading approval to an ordinance that would ban smoking in many public places, including restaurants. Bars are exempt from the ban. The second reading is scheduled for 9/15.

- **Ingredients**

A **Massachusetts** bill passed the Senate requiring tobacco manufacturers to disclose to the state the constituent ingredients of sidestream tobacco smoke. The bill was recommitted to the House Ways and Means Committee for further study. The House could take up the measure when they reconvene in the fall.

/c

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