

A JOINT RESOLUTION authorizing and directing the Department of Corrections to allow the sale of electronic cigarettes in all correctional institutions within the Commonwealth, including adult correctional facilities operating under KRS 197.505 to 197.525.

WHEREAS, in 2014, the New York Times reported that throughout the United States the sale of electronic cigarettes in correctional facilities increased significantly, with proponents noting that the sale of electronic cigarettes in their correctional facilities provided both an increased revenue stream for facilities and helped to reduce violence and tension among inmates; and

WHEREAS, county jail facilities throughout the state already offer inmates housed in their facilities the opportunity to purchase electronic cigarettes; and

WHEREAS, manufacturers and suppliers have developed electronic cigarettes that may be safely sold to inmates, with sealed ends to prevent tampering and serialization numbers to allow facilities to track and identify ownership of each electronic cigarette purchased by an inmate; and

WHEREAS, the sale of electronic cigarettes to inmates currently housed in correctional facilities throughout the state offers a safer alternative to traditional cigarettes by restricting inmate usage of lighters or matches;

NOW, THEREFORE,

Be it resolved by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:

➔Section 1. The Department of Corrections is directed to allow the sale and usage of electronic cigarettes in all correctional institutions within the Commonwealth, including adult correctional facilities operating under KRS 197.505 to 197.525 and to complete its 2015 survey, "Inmate Use of E-Cigarettes", an inquiry into the number of county jails that house state prisoners and currently allow the sale and use of electronic cigarettes. The department is also directed to promulgate administrative regulations related to the sale and safe use of electronic cigarettes in correctional facilities housing

state prisoners throughout the Commonwealth.