

vaping cessation services offered by his or her local school district or the health department ***at no cost.***” (emphasis added)

The fiscal impact is indeterminable to moderate. The bill does not mandate that a child or school employee receive smoking/vaping cessation services, but it requires those who wish to participate in the services be allowed to do so at no cost. The Kentucky Health Department Association indicated that some local health departments may already provide smoking cessation services at no cost. According to the Kentucky Department for Public Health (KDH), the number of local health departments hosting smoking cessation classes to people of any age has declined due to the decreasing number of people willing to participate in them. These cessation classes are generally designed for adults, not youth. KDH indicated that few local health departments have facilitators trained in the “Not On Tobacco” program (designed specifically for youth) developed by the American Lung Association, and few of these facilitators have actually conducted a class. The American Lung Association charges a fee to those who wish to become a facilitator in the Not On Tobacco program but has not responded to LRC requests for cost information. Local health departments that are required to institute smoking/vaping cessation services under SB 166 would incur costs for employees to be trained.

According to KDH, local health departments are required to promote a free tobacco *quitline* (see <https://chfs.ky.gov/agencies/dph/dmch/hpb/Pages/quit.aspx>), which is conducted by phone or text but not in person at local health departments. There are several quitline resources, and some are designed specifically for youth.

Existing smoking cessation classes may need to be altered for youth participation and to account for vaping cessation; additional training of local health department staff may be necessary. According to the Franklin County Health Department, local health departments that charge for the service may be able to seek at least partial reimbursement from private health insurance companies and Medicaid for nicotine replacement therapy (such as a patch, gum, lozenge), but nicotine replacement therapy is only available to persons 18 and over. Also according to the Franklin County Health Department, vaping cessation can be more difficult than traditional smoking cessation because many “vape pens” have much higher levels of nicotine, and the addiction is stronger.

It is not possible to know how many students would seek smoking/vaping cessation services from a local health department.

Part III: Differences to Local Government Mandate Statement from Prior Versions

Part II, above, relates to the bill as introduced.

Data Source(s): LRC Staff; Kentucky Department for Public Health; Kentucky Health Department Association; Franklin County Health Department

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