STATE OF NEW YORK

157

2017-2018 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

(Prefiled)

January 4, 2017

Introduced by Sen. RIVERA -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Health

AN ACT to amend the public health law and the tax law, in relation to amending certain definitions relating to tobacco products; and to amend the public health law and the tax law, in relation to changing the minimum pack sizes for tobacco products and the tax amount for tobacco products

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

Section 1. Subdivision 5 of section 1399-aa of the public health law, as amended by chapter 152 of the laws of 2004, is amended and a new subdivision 14 is added to read as follows:

5. "Tobacco products" means one or more cigarettes or cigars, bidis, chewing tobacco, **loose tobacco, single-unit tobacco,** powdered tobacco, nicotine water or any other tobacco products **and also includes any other product containing tobacco or nicotine that is intended or expected to be consumed except for any such product that has been approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration for sale as a tobacco use cessation product or for other medical purposes and is being marketed and sold solely for that approved purpose**.

14. "Cigarette" means any roll for smoking made wholly or in part of tobacco or of any other substance, irrespective of size, shape, appearance, packaging, pricing, marketing or labeling and whether or not such tobacco or substance is flavored, adulterated or mixed with any other ingredient, the wrapper or cover of which is made of paper or any other substance or material but is not made in whole or in part of tobacco that is likely to be offered to, purchased by, or consumed by consumers as a cigarette, as defined above, including any roll for smoking containing tobacco wrapped in a substance containing tobacco that weighs

EXPLANATION--Matter in *italics* (underscored) is new; matter in brackets [-] is old law to be omitted.

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no more than four and a half pounds per thousand unless it is wrapped in whole tobacco leaf and does not have an internal filter.

§ 2. Subdivisions 1, 2 and 2-a of section 470 of the tax law, subdivision 1 as amended by section 14 and subdivision 2 as amended by section 15 of part D of chapter 134 of the laws of 2010 and subdivision 2-a as added by chapter 552 of the laws of 2008, are amended and two new subdivisions 2-c and 2-d are added to read as follows:

1. "Cigarette." Any roll for smoking made wholly or in part of tobacco or of any other substance, irrespective of size [~~or~~], shape, appearance, packaging, pricing, marketing or labeling and whether or not such tobacco or substance is flavored, adulterated or mixed with any other ingredient, the wrapper or cover of which is made of paper or any other substance or material but is not made in whole or in part of tobacco that is likely to be offered to, purchased by, or consumed by consumers as a cigarette, as defined above, including any roll for smoking containing tobacco wrapped in a substance containing tobacco that weighs no more than four and a half pounds per thousand unless it is wrapped in whole tobacco leaf and does not have an internal filter.

2. "Tobacco products." Any cigar, including a little cigar, or tobacco, other than cigarettes, [~~intended for consumption by smoking, chewing, or as snuff~~] and also includes any other product containing tobacco or nicotine that is intended or expected to be consumed except for any such product that has been approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration for sale as a tobacco use cessation product or for other medical purposes and is being marketed and sold solely for that approved purpose.

2-a. "[~~Roll-your-own~~] Loose tobacco." Any tobacco product 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 for making cigarettes. Loose tobacco shall also include pipe tobacco, roll-your-own tobacco and any other loose tobacco used for smoking.

2-c. "Single-unit tobacco products." Any tobacco product, including finely cut, ground or powdered loose tobacco or blend containing tobacco intended for oral consumption without being combusted, other than cigarettes or cigars, that is offered in discrete single-use tablets, lozenges, pouches, pills, or other single-dose or single-use units, or in packages of such single-use units.

2-d. "Moist snuff." Finely cut, ground or powdered loose tobacco or blend containing tobacco intended for oral consumption without being combusted that is not a single-unit tobacco product.

§ 3. Subdivision 2 of section 1399-gg of the public health law, as added by chapter 513 of the laws of 2004, is amended to read as follows:

2. No person engaged in the business of manufacturing, selling or otherwise distributing tobacco products, herbal cigarettes, cigarette wrapping papers, wrapping leaves or tubes, or any agent or employee of such person, shall manufacture or cause to be manufactured for sale in this state, or sell or distribute in this state: (a) any package or other container of cigarettes containing fewer than twenty cigarettes; (b) any package of [~~roll-your-own~~] loose tobacco containing less than [~~six-tenths~~] sixty-five hundredths of an ounce of tobacco; [~~or~~] (c) any package of cigars containing fewer than five cigars; (d) any package of single-unit tobacco, as defined in subdivision two-c of section four hundred seventy of the tax law, containing fewer than twenty pieces of single-use units; (e) any package of moist snuff containing less than an ounce of tobacco; or (f) any package or other container of cigarette wrapping papers, wrapping leaves or tubes, that are or are held out to

be suitable for use or used as devices to wrap tobacco for smoking, containing fewer than twenty sheets, leaves or tubes.

§ 4. Subdivision 1 of section 471-b of the tax law, as amended by section 2 of part QQ-1 of chapter 57 of the laws of 2008, paragraphs (a) and (b) as amended by section 18 and paragraph (c) as added by section 19 of part D of chapter 134 of the laws of 2010, is amended to read as follows:

1. There is hereby imposed and shall be paid a tax on all tobacco products possessed in this state by any person for sale, except that no tax shall be imposed on tobacco products sold under such circumstances that this state is without power to impose such tax, or sold to the United States, or sold to or by a voluntary unincorporated organization of the armed forces of the United States operating a place for the sale of goods pursuant to regulations promulgated by the appropriate executive agency of the United States, to the extent provided in such regulations and policy statements of such an agency applicable to such sales.

(a) Such tax on tobacco products [~~other than snuff and little cigars~~] shall be at the rate of [~~seventy-five~~] **ninety-five** percent of the wholesale price **or the minimum rates as indicated in paragraph (b), (c), (d), (e) or (f) of this subdivision, whichever is higher**, and is intended to be imposed only once upon the sale of any tobacco products [~~other than snuff and little cigars~~].

(b) Such **minimum** tax on **moist** snuff shall be at the rate of [~~two~~] **three** dollars **and sixty-three cents** per ounce and a proportionate rate on any fractional parts of an ounce[~~, provided that cans or packages of snuff with a net weight of less than one ounce shall be taxed at the equivalent rate of cans or packages weighing one ounce~~]. Such tax shall be computed based on the net weight as listed by the manufacturer, and is intended to be imposed only once upon the sale of any **moist** snuff.

(c) Such tax on little cigars shall be at the same rate imposed on cigarettes under this article and is intended to be imposed only once upon the sale of any little cigars.

(d) Such minimum tax on single-unit tobacco products shall be at the same rate imposed on cigarettes under this article and is intended to be imposed only once upon the sale of any single-dose or single-unit tobacco products.

(e) Such minimum tax on any loose tobacco meant for smoking shall be equal to the amount of the total tax on a pack of twenty cigarettes under this article per 0.65 ounces with a proportionate tax on any other weights, based on the net weight determined by the manufacturer. Such tax is intended to be imposed only once upon the sale of any loose tobacco.

(f) Such minimum tax on cigars, other than little cigars, shall be equal to the amount of the total tax on a pack of twenty cigarettes under this article with a proportionate tax on packages with fewer than five cigars and is intended to be imposed only once upon the sale of any cigars.

It shall be presumed that all tobacco products within the state are subject to tax until the contrary is established, and the burden of proof that any tobacco products are not taxable hereunder shall be upon the person in possession thereof.

§ 5. This act shall take effect immediately.