



Tobacco (Amendment) Bill, 2026

Frequently Asked Questions

1. When will the proposed Bill be made public?

- a. The proposed Bill will be published on 21 August. You will be able to view and download it from this site.

2. What happens after I submit my feedback?

- a. Your survey response or emailed feedback will be read by Ministry staff, and taken into consideration as we shape this legislation.

3. What problem is the Government trying to solve?

- a. The Tobacco Act (2008 Revision) was established to protect public health by regulating the manufacture, sale, distribution, use and promotion of tobacco products.
- b. The Act has not been updated to reflect significant changes in the nicotine market, particularly the emergence of vaping devices.
- c. These products have grown rapidly in popularity and are often marketed in ways that appeal to young people, with limited transparency regarding their nicotine content.

4. Why is the Government proposing these changes now?

- a. The 2024 Cayman Islands Student Drug Use Survey found that 15.6% of students began vaping at 13 or younger, and more than 80% of students who vaped in the past year used nicotine-containing products.
- b. These findings demonstrate early exposure and high nicotine dependence risk.
- c. They also highlight the importance of strengthening prevention efforts and ensuring that appropriate safeguards are in place to reduce youth exposure to nicotine products.

5. What are the key proposals in the Tobacco (Amendment) Bill, 2026? The Bill:

- a. Prohibits the importation, manufacture, sale and promotion of disposable vaping products;
- b. Strengthens protections for minors by restricting access to vaping products to persons aged 18 and older;
- c. Enhances regulatory and enforcement powers; and
- d. Modernises existing tobacco legislation to address vaping products that are not explicitly covered under the current framework.



6. How does the legislation protect children?

- a. It will protect minors by restricting the use of vaping products to persons aged 18 and over.

7. How does the legislation affect businesses?

- a. It will regulate vaping in the same way as tobacco. The proposed substituted section 3 provides that a person shall not manufacture, package, label, sell, advertise or promote a vaping product except in accordance with this legislation. The section also provides that a person shall not import a vaping product except in accordance with the Customs and Border Control Act (2024 Revision) and the Customs Tariff Act (2026 Revision).
- b. It will require importers and distributors of vaping products to provide information on emissions in respect of vaping products.
- c. It will require the display of health messaging on products.
- d. It will introduce new penalties for importing, manufacturing, packaging, labelling, selling, advertising or promoting disposable vaping products:
 - i. for a first offence, a fine of fifteen thousand dollars; and
 - ii. for a subsequent offence, a fine of thirty thousand dollars and imprisonment for twelve months.

8. Is this a ban on vaping? No.

- a. The Bill is not intended to ban vaping products.
- b. Instead, it creates a clear legal framework governing how these products are imported, sold, distributed and marketed, while placing strong protections around young people.

9. How do these amendments address environmental concerns?

- a. Many disposable vaping products contain plastic, lithium-ion batteries and other components that become hazardous waste when improperly discarded.
- b. Regulating these products supports broader efforts to protect Cayman's environment.