

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

FILE NUMBER: H.F. 962

DATE: March 21, 2011

Version: First engrossment

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Subject: Municipal tobacco licenses

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Currently, sales of tobacco and tobacco-related devices must be by licensed vendors. (Cities and towns may license sales of tobacco and tobacco-related devices; counties are required to license in areas where cities and towns do not.) If a licensee (or employee of a licensee) sells tobacco or tobacco-related devices to a minor, the licensee must be charged an administrative penalty that increases with second and third violations and after a third violation within 24 months also results in a license suspension. A local ordinance may be more stringent.

This bill permits a licensing authority to take an alternative enforcement action to license suspension if it determines that the violation was due to an employee's mistake. Before doing so, the licensing authority must consider the licensee's policy on sales to minors, employee training, and unannounced compliance checks.