

New Tobacco Law

The following is an excerpt from the revisions to "Prevention of Youth Access to Tobacco Act of 1994":

The new law expands the violation to include *possession* of tobacco products by a minor. The criminal penalty is removed for offenses by minors and instead requires the Juvenile Court to impose a civil penalty of \$10 to \$50 and to order the destruction of the tobacco product. The Juvenile Court may impose community service work of up to 50 hours for a second or subsequent violation within a one-year period.

Additionally, the new law requires school principals and law enforcement officers to issue citations to persons who are under 18 years of age when they violate the tobacco law. The citation would compel the minor to appear in Juvenile Court where the above penalties would be imposed. Also the products must be seized as contraband.
