Contra Costa County Tobacco Retailer License Ordinance

Results:
• Illegal sales rate in the unincorporated areas is 3.8% as compared with 37% before the ordinance took effect.

Purpose:
• To increase compliance among tobacco retailers with local, state and federal tobacco* sales laws.

Adopted: January 2003

Basic components:
• The license can be suspended for violations of youth tobacco sales laws, like self-service displays of tobacco or tobacco sales to minors.
• License fees cover costs of compliance checks and administration.

Fee:
• $287 tobacco retailer license fee per year (based on actual costs of administration/enforcement)
• $348 hearing fee for retailers who have been found to be in violation of any tobacco sales laws and require a suspension hearing
• $110 re-inspection fees for re-inspection of retailers whose license is suspended

Administration: Tax Collector issues license with County Business License.

Enforcement:
• Contra Costa Health Services staff conduct inspections and administer hearings.
• Undercover buying operations are conducted through law enforcement.

*Including Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems (ENDS) such as electronic cigarettes

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