Municipal Tobacco Control Technical Assistance Program

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Local Policy Banning or Limiting Rolling Papers

MUNICIPALITY	MEASURE	MEASURE TYPE	YEAR
Adams	flavor ban	health regulation	2021
Chelsea	flavor ban	health regulation	2021
Foxboro	ban	town bylaw	1994
Grafton	flavor ban	health regulation	2022
Malden	limited to AORTS	city ordinance	1991
Shrewsbury	flavor ban	health regulation	2021
Somerville	flavor ban	health regulation	2021
Stoughton	ban	health regulation	1997
Wellesley	ban	health regulation	2021
Swansea	flavor ban	health regulation	2023

TOTAL: 10 (3 City in Bold) – 361,013 residents or 5.2% of state's population lives in listed municipalities.

SUMMARY: MGL Ch. 270 Section 6a limits the sale of rolling papers to those 21 or older. The original state law pre-empted cities and towns from regulating this law further unless you had an existing local measure enacted before November 1995. That preemption was removed in 2018 at the time the age was raised in this state law from 18 to 21. AORTS = adult-only retail tobacco store. Below is language for a local policy:

DEFINITION:

Rolling Papers: sheets, rolls, tubes, cones or leaves, that do not contain tobacco, which are used for rolling cigarettes either by hand or with a roll-your-own machine. When rolling a cigarette, the filler may be tobacco, cannabis or other commonly-smoked herbs.

TO BAN THE SALE OF ALL ROLLING PAPERS:

The sale of Rolling Papers is prohibited in [city/town] except in state-approved marijuana dispensaries or marijuana retailers.

OR

TO BAN THE SALE OF FLAVORED VERSIONS ONLY:

Add this sentence to the existing flavor sales restriction policy:

For this regulation, flavored Rolling Papers, as defined, are "Tobacco Product Flavor Enhancers".

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