SENATE BILL NO. 2014

AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 97-32-3, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO PROHIBIT THE SALE OR TRANSFER OF CIGARETTE ROLLING PAPERS TO PERSONS UNDER 18 YEARS OF AGE; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI:

SECTION 1. Section 97-32-3, Mississippi Code of 1972, is amended as follows:

97-32-3. For the purposes of this article:

(a) "Dealer" means every person, firm, corporation or association of persons, except retailers as defined herein, who receives the product from the manufacturer of tobacco for distribution, for sale, for use, or for consumption in the State of Mississippi.

(b) "Person" means any natural person.

(c) "Photographic identification" means any government-issued card that includes a photograph of the person seeking to purchase tobacco products and that is accepted as proof of age under Mississippi law.

(d) "Point of sale" means a store, stand, or any other place of business or point of distribution maintained by a seller from which tobacco products are made available for sale or distribution to consumers.

(e) "Retailer" includes every company, corporation, partnership, business association, joint venture, estate, trust, or any other combination acting as a unit or legal entity other than a wholesale dealer as defined below, whose business is that of selling merchandise at retail, who shall sell or offer for sale tobacco to the consumer.
(f) "Seller" means any natural person, company, corporation, firm, partnership, organization or other legal entity who sells, dispenses, distributes or issues tobacco products for commercial purposes.

(g) "Tobacco product" means any substance that contains tobacco including, but not limited to, cigarettes, cigars, pipes, snuff, smoking tobacco or smokeless tobacco; "tobacco product" also means cigarette rolling papers.

(h) "Wholesaler" includes dealers whose principal business is that of wholesale dealer or jobber, who is known to the retail trade as such, and whose place of business is located in Mississippi or in a state which affords reciprocity to wholesalers domiciled in Mississippi, who shall sell any taxable tobacco to retail dealers only for the purpose of resale.

(i) "Retailer Tobacco Prevention Education Program" includes any program authorized by the Attorney General that teaches and informs retailers and wholesalers about the laws regarding youth access to tobacco products.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after July 1, 2001.