

1531-S

Sponsor(s): House Committee on Health Care (originally sponsored by Representatives Parlette, Cody and Veloria; by request of Attorney General)

Brief Title: Regulating certain tobacco product manufacturers.

HB 1531-S - DIGEST

(DIGEST OF PROPOSED 1ST SUBSTITUTE)

Declares that it is the policy of the state that financial burdens imposed on the state by cigarette smoking be borne by tobacco product manufacturers rather than by the state to the extent that such manufacturers either determine to enter into a settlement with the state or are found culpable by the courts.

Declares that it would be contrary to the policy of the state if tobacco product manufacturers who determine not to enter into such a settlement could use a resulting cost advantage to derive large, short-term profits in the years before liability may arise without ensuring that the state will have an eventual source of recovery from them if they are proven to have acted culpably. It is therefore in the interest of the state to require that such manufacturers establish a reserve fund to guarantee a source of compensation and to prevent such manufacturers from deriving large, short-term profits and then becoming judgment-proof before liability might arise.