

**House Bill 5144**

**Sponsor: Rep. Frank Accavitti, Jr.**

**Committee: Commerce**

**Complete to 1-30-04**

**A SUMMARY OF HOUSE BILL 5144 AS INTRODUCED 10-8-03**

The bill would create a new Part 134 in the Public Health Code to license and regulate tanning facilities, with an effective date of April 1, 2004. Among other things, the bill would:

- Prohibit the operation of a tanning facility without a license, beginning about one year after the bill's effective date.
- Require that an individual be provided a written cautionary statement before being allowed to use a tanning device in a tanning facility.
- Specify that a tanning facility would have to require the customer to sign a written statement acknowledging that he or she had read and understood the written warning and had agreed to wear protective eyewear. If the customer was less than 18 years old, a parent or legal guardian would also have to sign the statement.
- Require the owner or operator of a tanning facility to conspicuously display a poster on the dangers of ultraviolet radiation; on the need to wear protective eyewear; on the ability of a customer to report any injury to the owner or operator, to the Department of Community Health, or to both; and on other matters.
- Allow an individual injured while using a tanning device at a tanning facility to report that fact to the owner or operator or to the Department of Community Health, or both, and require the facility owner or operator to report to the department any customer reports of alleged injury within five working days of receiving the notice of the alleged injury.
- Make a violation of the act a state civil infraction, with civil fines of up to \$500 per violation, and allow civil actions for injunctive relief.
- Repeal the current provision in the health code that a parent or guardian of a minor under 18 must consent to the use of a tanning device by the minor and that a minor under 14 be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian to the tanning facility.

Following is a more detailed description of the bill.

Licensing of tanning facilities. Within 180 days after the effective date of the bill, the Department of Community Health would be required to adopt rules establishing licensure and safety standards for tanning facilities. Beginning 180 days after the effective date of the rules, a person could not operate a tanning facility without a license from the department. In drawing up its rules, the department could incorporate by reference existing industry standards, existing federal standards, or standards adopted in other states. The rules could provide for a licensure

cycle of up to three years; an application fee not to exceed \$100; and annual license fee not to exceed \$50.

The department could suspend or revoke a license, and it could deny a license, for conduct in violation of the bill or associated rules. In lieu of a suspension or revocation, the department could provide for the imposition of an administrative fine of up to \$1,000 per violation. Proceedings would have to be brought under the Administrative Procedures Act.

Written warning statement. Before allowing an individual to use a tanning device in a tanning facility, the owner or operator or an employee would have to provide the customer with a written statement containing all of the following information: 1) not wearing eye protection while using a tanning device may cause damage to the eyes; 2) overexposure to ultraviolet radiation produced by the tanning devices cause burns; 3) repeated exposure to the ultraviolet radiation produced by the tanning devices used in the tanning facility may cause premature aging of the skin or skin cancer, or both; 4) abnormal skin sensitivity to ultraviolet radiation or burning may be caused by certain foods, cosmetics, and medication, including tranquilizers, diuretics, antibiotics, high blood pressure medication, birth control medication; 5) an individual who is taking a prescription drug or over-the-counter drug should consult a physician before using a tanning device; and 6) an individual injured while using a tanning device at a tanning facility may report the injury to the owner or operator of the facility or to the Department of Community Health, or both.

Written consent by customer. Before allowing a customer to use a tanning device, the owner or operator of a tanning facility would have to require a customer to sign a written statement acknowledging that he or she had read and understood the written statement described in the paragraph above and that he or she agreed to use protective eyewear. The facility owner or operator would have to require the customer to sign the statement at least once in a one-year period; to retain the written statement for at least one year; and make the written statement available for inspection upon the request of law enforcement. If the customer was less than 18 years old, the written statement would also have to be signed by a parent or legal guardian.

Warning Poster. A tanning facility's owner or operator would also be required to conspicuously display a poster in an area frequented by customers. The poster would have to be printed in at least 32-point boldfaced type and in a form prescribed by the bill. It would carry the heading "Danger: Ultraviolet Radiation", and would contain the following seven items. 1) Follow instructions. 2) Avoid too frequent or too lengthy exposure. As with natural sunlight, exposure can cause eye and skin injury and allergic reactions. Repeated exposure may cause chronic sun damage, characterized by wrinkling, dryness, fragility, and bruising of the skin, and skin cancer. 3) Wear protective eyewear. (The poster would at this point have to contain a capitalized warning: "Failure to use protective eyewear may result in severe burns and long-term injury to the eyes.") 4) Ultraviolet radiation from sunlamps will intensify the effects of the sun. Therefore, do not sunbathe before or after exposure to ultraviolet radiation. 5) Some oral or skin medications or cosmetics may increase your sensitivity to ultraviolet radiation. Consult your physician before using a tanning device if you are using medications, have a history of skin problems, or believe you are especially sensitive to sunlight. Pregnant women or women on birth control pills who use this tanning device may develop discolored skin. 6) If you do not tan in the sun, you are unlikely to tan from use of this tanning device. 7) If you are injured while

using a tanning device at this tanning facility, you may report the injury to the owner or operator or to the Department of Community Health, or both.

Prohibited Claims. The bill would prohibit the owner, operator, or employee of a tanning facility from claiming or from distributing promotional material claiming or otherwise advertising that using a tanning facility is safe, nonburning, or free from risk. The bill also would specify that complying with the warning statement and warning poster requirements would not diminish or otherwise limit or alter the tort liability of the owner or operator of the facility.

Injury Reports. An individual injured while using a tanning device at a tanning facility could report that fact to the facility's owner or operator or to the Department of Community Health, or to both. An individual reporting an injury to the department would have to use a department-provided form. A facility owner or operator would have five working days after receiving a notice of injury to report the alleged injury to the department on a department-provided form. The department would have to develop and make available a reporting form within 30 days after the bill's effective date. The form would have to contain the name of the person making the report, the name of the facility, the nature of the alleged injury, the name and address of the health care provider to whom the injured person was referred, in any, and any information required by the department.

Enforcement. A violation of the new Part 134 would be a state civil infraction and would be subject to a civil fine of up to \$500 per violation. State civil infraction proceedings would be conducted under Chapter 88 of the Revised Judicature Act. Fines and costs would be disbursed as provided in that chapter. In addition to other enforcement action authorized by law, a person alleging a violation of Part 134 could bring a civil action for injunctive relief if the person had used the tanning facility within 60 days before filing the action. The remedies in the bill would be independent and cumulative. The use of one remedy by a person would not bar the use of other lawful remedies by that person or the use of a lawful remedy by another person. The new Part 134 could be enforced by a local health department.

Repealer/Historical Note. The bill would repeal Section 13407 as of April 1, 2004. As mentioned earlier, that section currently requires parental consent for an individual less than 18 years of age to use a tanning device and requires that a parent accompany a minor under 14 years of age. This section was placed in the Public Health Code in 1996 by a bill that was tie-barred to a tanning facility licensing bill similar to House Bill 5144. The 1996 licensing bill was vetoed by then-Governor Engler. Subsequent legislation broke the tie-bar to allow Section 13407 to take effect, although it continued to contain references to non-existent sections of the code that the vetoed legislation would have put in place.

MCL 333.13401 et al.

Analyst: C. Couch

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