California and Proposition 67

by Elizabeth Harmon

On November 07, 2016, California voters approved a measure that bans single-use plastic bags, Proposition 67, which supports the previous ban that was signed into law by Governor Jerry Brown but put on hold in 2014. Many communities in California had already restricted the use of non-recyclable plastic bags citing problems that range from being stuck in trees, fences, and bushes to ending up in sewers and waterways. For instance, Los Angeles had already prohibited the single-use plastic bags and shoppers were required to pay 10-cent for each paper bag. However, the restrictions were not always the same from community to community so lawmakers set out to consolidate the rules and make them uniform across the state, resulting in the plastic bag ban signed into law in 2014.

With the “yes” vote on Prop. 67, non-reusable plastic bags are banned from grocery stores, pharmacies, small markets, and liquor stores but restaurants and department stores are excluded. These retail outlets may still have available plastic bags for customers, which are thicker and presumably reusable, and paper sacks but will charge 10-cents or more for each. This is designed to urge shoppers to use their own multi-use bags, greatly reducing the approximately 13 billion plastic bags Californians previously used yearly.

Although California has been at the vanguard of United States movement to ban the use of non-recyclable plastic bags and now the first state to pass an all-inclusive law, municipalities across the country have implemented similar bans. Hawaii has put into place a de facto restriction on carry-out plastic bags in four counties, which covers the entire state. On the continental United States, municipalities in states from Alaska to Florida have prohibited the use of non-biodegradable bags. Some states, such as Iowa, Maine, and New Mexico, have only a few municipalities that have bans on plastic bags, while other states, such as North Carolina, Texas, and Washington, have a greater number of cities that have prohibited the use of single use bags.

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Blowing Smoke: E-Cigarettes, and Vaping

by Mora Prestinary

You’ve seen them, adults lighting up e-cigarettes, those pen-like devices, between their lips. Take a puff and you get a genuine nicotine fix. Well they’re not just for adults.


Although sales are banned in some states, teens have been ordering them online. The wide array of flavors (such as coffee, mint, candy, and fruit flavors) have helped make e-cigarettes particularly appealing to this age group.

Electronic cigarettes often resemble traditional cigarettes but they use a heat source, usually powered by a battery, to turn “e-liquid,” a liquid that usually contains nicotine from tobacco and flavorings, into an aerosol that is inhaled by the user.

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According to Mark Murray, executive director of Californians Against Waste, the passage of Proposition 67 in California will encourage other states to pass similar statewide laws banning the unregulated use of non-recyclable plastic bags.

For Further Information see:
www.cawrecycles.org
www.plasticbagbanreport.com
www.plasticbaglaws.org
www.surfrider.org

E-Cigarettes
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The amount of nicotine in the aerosol may vary by brand. Little information about the safety of electronic cigarettes exists.

The FDA now regulates all tobacco products, including (as shown): hookah, e-cigarettes, dissolvables, smokeless tobacco, cigarettes, all cigars, roll-your-own tobacco, pipe tobacco, and future tobacco products that meet the statutory definition of a tobacco product: http://www.fda.gov/TobaccoProducts/default.htm

In 2009, the Family Smoking Prevention and Tobacco Control Act gave the agency authority to regulate the manufacturing, distribution, and marketing of tobacco products. (Pub.L. 111–31, H.R. 1256). The new rule also restricts under-age access to newly regulated tobacco products in:
1) not allowing products to be sold to those younger than 18 and requiring photo ID; and
2) not allowing tobacco products to be sold in vending machines (unless in an adult-only facility).

Beginning in 2018, the product packages and advertisements of all newly-regulated covered tobacco products must bear the following warning statement: “WARNING: This product contains nicotine. Nicotine is an addictive chemical.”

In 2016, FDA finalized a rule extending regulatory authority to cover all tobacco products, including vaporizers, vape pens, hookah pens, electronic cigarettes (E-Cigarettes), e-pipes, and all other ENDS (Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems) https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2016/05/10/2016-10685/deeming-tobacco-products-to-be-subject-to-the-federal-food-drug-and-cosmetic-act-as-amended-by-the

But aren’t e-cigarettes safer than regular cigarettes? The evidence is not there, yet. Some people are attempting to use e-cigarettes indoors and in public spaces which are smoke free, like bars, restaurants, libraries, and even public transit. While e-cigarettes do not contain smoke, they do expose others to secondhand emissions. There is no evidence that shows e-cigarettes emissions (secondhand aerosol) are safe for non-users to inhale. Many e-cigarette companies market their product as a tool to help smokers quit. However, the FDA’s Center for Drug Evaluation and Research has not approved any e-cigarette as a safe or effective method to help smokers quit. Next time you cig-up, think about where those smoke rings go.

Your best defense is to be well-informed. Here are some web sites with additional information:
Nature www.nature.com/news/e-cigarettes-the-lingering-questions-1.15762

DID YOU KNOW ...?
Title 24, The California Building Code, all 12 Parts, is available free online:
http://www.bsc.ca.gov/Home.aspx
What Is Elder or Dependent Adult Abuse?

Abuse of:
Someone 65 years old or older; or a dependent adult.
A “dependent adult” is someone between 18 and 64 that has certain mental or physical disabilities that keep them from being able to do normal activities or protect themselves.

See California Courts Self-Help web page for more information: http://www.courts.ca.gov/selfhelp-elder.htm

To report elder or dependent adult abuse, please call the 24-Hour Elder Abuse Reporting Hotline at 1-877-477-3646 (1-877-4-R-Seniors) or by calling your local police department.

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**Holiday Recipe**

The best cut-out cookies, ever.

I promise.

(Delicious frozen!)

**Recipe**

Cut-Out Cookies

| 1 cup shortening - Crisco |
| 1 1/2 cups sugar |
| 3 eggs |
| 1 1/2 tsp. vanilla |
| 3 1/2 cups flour |
| 1 tsp. baking powder |
| 1/2 tsp. salt |

Bake 400°, 8–10 min.

Pre-heat oven to 400°

In a large bowl cream shortening and sugar together

Add 3 eggs, 1 at a time

Add vanilla

Sift flour, baking powder, salt together, then add to sugar mixture

Roll out dough (about 1/4 inch thick) and cut with cookie cutters

Place on ungreased cookie sheet

Bake at 400° for 8–10 min. (time depends upon how thin the rolled out dough is)

Decorate as desired

Frosting: combine some powdered sugar and milk
Can add food coloring to frosting
Attention All Orange County Lawyers-

by Patti Walter

Attorneys are required to complete a total of 25 hours of approved MCLE credit every three years. Visit the California Bar Website http://mcle.calbar.ca.gov/MCLE.aspx for the complete details pertaining to your MCLE credit requirements.

Our library offers a wide variety of MCLE credit CD/DVDs. Attending MCLE seminars can be costly; why not use Library MCLE material to obtain the needed credit? OCPLL is offering this wonderful free service so take advantage of it! To see what’s available, look at the Library’s Catalog, on our website www.ocpll.org, Click on Catalog, then select Featured Lists to see the current MCLE material. Or, when you come into the library our reference librarians have compiled a binder that catalogs our MCLE credit CDs collection by subject and title. If you join the library you may check-out CDs and listen to them anytime you want. Many patrons say they listen to them while commuting to and from work in their cars.

Attorneys who prefer to listen to the CD’s in the library may use their laptop in the library to listen to the CDs. Or if you prefer, CD players are available upon request at the Public Services Desk. Materials circulate for three weeks (sorry no renewals). During the months of December and January the library limits the circulation of MCLE materials to two titles at one time.

Note: While the library purchases MCLE material from a variety of publishers we can no longer purchase MCLE compliance materials from CEB because CEB stopped producing the material in the library-friendly CD/DVD format. CEB now offers their 2016 MCLE Compliance packages for a fee, to individuals, or law firms. Please visit CEB.com for details.