HOUSE DOCKET, NO. FILED ON: 1/14/2009

**HOUSE . . . . . . . . . . . . . . No.**

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The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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PRESENTED BY:

**Jonathan Hecht**

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*To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General
 Court assembled:*

 The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the passage of the accompanying bill:

An Act To Reduce Youth Consumption of Tobacco Products By Equalizing the Cigarette Excise.

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PETITION OF:

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| --- | --- |
| Name: | District/Address: |
| Jonathan Hecht | 29th Middlesex |
| Kay Khan | 11th Middlesex |
| Pam Richardson | 6th Middlesex |

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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**In the Year Two Thousand and Nine**

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An Act to reduce youth consumption of tobacco products by closing loopholes in the cigarette excise.

 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:*

SECTION 1.Section 7B of Chapter 64C of the General Laws is hereby amended by adding the following paragraph:

(m) In addition to the excise imposed by paragraph (b), an excise shall be imposed on all cigars weighing more than 3 pounds per 1,000 units and not more than 12 pounds per 1,000 units held in the commonwealth at the rate of 80 per cent of the wholesale price of such product. In addition to the excise imposed by paragraph (b), an excise shall be imposed on all smoking tobacco held in the commonwealth at the rate of 90 per cent of the wholesale price of such product.

SECTION 2.Section 7C(a) of Chapter 64C of the General Laws is hereby amended by striking out the sentence “Notwithstanding the provisions of this section, the excise imposed by this section shall equal twenty-five percent of the price paid by such licensee or unclassified acquirer to purchase smokeless tobacco so sold, imported, or acquired” and inserting in place thereof the following sentence: “Notwithstanding the provisions of this section, the excise imposed by this section shall equal forty-five percent of the price paid by such licensee or unclassified acquirer to purchase smokeless tobacco so sold, imported or acquired.”