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Arapahoe County considers possession of tobacco by minors ordinance *Law would prohibit minors possessing tobacco on school grounds or within 2,000 feet from school property in unincorporated Arapahoe County*

LITTLETON, CO --- Arapahoe County is considering an ordinance that would prohibit minors from possessing tobacco products on school grounds or within 2,000 feet from schools in unincorporated Arapahoe County.

The Board of County Commissioners heard the first reading of the proposed ordinance Tuesday. A second reading of the law and final adoption will be considered by the Board Tuesday, March 18. The meeting is open to the public.

The ordinance is being proposed by the Sheriff's Office to address complaints from citizens about students smoking cigarettes or using tobacco products who are gathering in residential neighborhoods near school property. As a result, students have been reported trespassing on residential property, leaving trash and litter on sidewalks and private property, and committing criminal mischief.

The proposed ordinance would prohibit a person under 18 from possessing any tobacco or tobacco products on school grounds and within 2,000 feet from a school within unincorporated Arapahoe County. A person convicted of violating the law would be subject to a \$75 fine for the first offense, and \$100 to \$300 fine for the second and subsequent offenses. The law would be enforced by the Sheriff's Office.

The cities of Centennial, Littleton, Greenwood Village, Sheridan and Englewood all have similar laws.

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