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2 **VMS RESOLUTION**
3 **REDUCING THE SECONDARY EFFECTS OF CIGARETTES**

4 *Adopted at 191st VMS Annual Meeting, October 23, 2004*
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6 WHEREAS, secondhand smoke is more than an annoyance, it is a killer. Secondhand
7 smoke is the third leading cause of preventable death and kills 53,000 non-smokers in
8 the U.S. each year. It causes cancer, heart disease, strokes and many other illnesses.
9 Secondhand smoke also exacerbates other medical conditions such as asthma,
10 emphysema, heart failure and anemia; and
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12 WHEREAS, in 1993 the Vermont Legislature enacted the Clean Indoor Air Act which
13 prohibits smoking in most public places. However, the Act includes an exemption for
14 restaurants and bars that receive more than 50% of their revenues from alcohol sales
15 and entertainment – the “Cabaret exemption”; and
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17 WHEREAS, bartenders working an 8-hour shift inhale the equivalent of ½ pack of
18 cigarettes. They face a 50% greater risk of dying of lung cancer, heart disease and other
19 illnesses than other workers. Waitressing is the most hazardous occupation for women -
20 - compared to other female workers, waitresses are almost four times more likely to die
21 from lung cancer; and
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23 WHEREAS, eliminating the Cabaret exemption in Vermont will save lives by
24 protecting workers and patrons who are both smokers and non-smokers alike from the
25 harmful effects of secondhand smoke.
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27 WHEREAS, cigarettes are also the leading cause of fatal home fires in the United
28 States. Annually, between 900 and 1,000 people in the United States die from fires
29 started by cigarettes and an additional 2,500 to 3,000 are injured. More than 100
30 victims who die every year are children and nonsmokers. The cost of human life and
31 property damage exceeds \$6 billion every year; and
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33 WHEREAS, fire-safe cigarettes have significantly less propensity to ignite furniture or
34 mattresses when carelessly discarded. Small design changes including use of less dense
35 tobacco, less porous paper, a smaller diameter, filter tip, and no added citrates to the
36 paper are key components of a fire-safe cigarette; and
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38 WHEREAS, in June, 2004 New York became the first state to require that all cigarettes
39 sold in- state are self-extinguishing and companies including Reynolds Tobacco, Philip
40 Morris, and Lorillard are selling fire-safe paper cigarettes in New York; therefore, be it
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42 **RESOLVED, that the Vermont Medical Society:**
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44 **Endorses strengthening the 1993 Clean Indoor Air Act by eliminating**
45 **the Cabaret License Exemption which allows smoking in bars and**
46 **restaurants;**
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Supports the Cigarette Fire Safety Act of 2004 (HR 4155), that would require the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) adopt the New York state cigarette fire safety standard as the national standard; and

Will collaborate with representatives of public safety, insurance companies, legislators, and others to require fire-safe cigarettes in Vermont.