

SECOND REGULAR SESSION

# HOUSE BILL NO. 2027

## 95TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE DIEHL.

4512L.011

D. ADAM CRUMBLISS, Chief Clerk

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### AN ACT

To repeal section 196.1003, RSMo, and to enact in lieu thereof one new section relating to the tobacco master settlement agreement, with an emergency clause.

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*Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the state of Missouri, as follows:*

Section A. Section 196.1003, RSMo, is repealed and one new section enacted in lieu thereof, to be known as section 196.1003, to read as follows:

196.1003. Requirements.

Any tobacco product manufacturer selling cigarettes to consumers within the State (whether directly or through a distributor, retailer or similar intermediary or intermediaries) after the date of enactment of this Act shall do one of the following:

(a) become a participating manufacturer (as that term is defined in section II(jj) of the Master Settlement Agreement) and generally perform its financial obligations under the Master Settlement Agreement; or

(b) (1) place into a qualified escrow fund by April 15 of the year following the year in question the following amounts (as such amounts are adjusted for inflation)--

1999: \$.0094241 per unit sold after the date of enactment of this Act;

2000: \$.0104712 per unit sold;

for each of 2001 and 2002: \$.0136125 per unit sold;

for each of 2003 through 2006: \$.0167539 per unit sold;

for each of 2007 and each year thereafter: \$.0188482 per unit sold.

(2) A tobacco product manufacturer that places funds into escrow pursuant to paragraph (1) shall receive the interest or other appreciation on such funds as earned. Such funds themselves shall be released from escrow only under the following circumstances--

EXPLANATION — Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted from the law. Matter in **bold-face** type in the above bill is proposed language.

18 (A) to pay a judgment or settlement on any released claim brought against such tobacco  
19 product manufacturer by the State or any releasing party located or residing in the State. Funds  
20 shall be released from escrow under this subparagraph (i) in the order in which they were placed  
21 into escrow and (ii) only to the extent and at the time necessary to make payments required under  
22 such judgment or settlement;

23 (B) to the extent that a tobacco product manufacturer establishes that the amount it was  
24 required to place into escrow **on account of units sold in the State** in a particular year was  
25 greater than the [State's allocable share of the total payments that such manufacturer would have  
26 been required to make in that year under the Master Settlement Agreement (as determined  
27 pursuant to section IX(i)(2) of the Master Settlement Agreement, and before any of the  
28 adjustments or offsets described in section IX(i)(3) of that Agreement other than the Inflation  
29 Adjustment)] **Master Settlement Agreement payments, as determined under section IX(i)**  
30 **of that Agreement including after final determination of all adjustments, that such**  
31 **manufacturer would have been required to make on account of such units sold** had it been  
32 a participating manufacturer, the excess shall be released from escrow and revert back to such  
33 tobacco product manufacturer; or

34 (C) to the extent not released from escrow under subparagraphs (A) or (B), funds shall  
35 be released from escrow and revert back to such tobacco product manufacturer twenty-five years  
36 after the date on which they were placed into escrow.

37 (3) Each tobacco product manufacturer that elects to place funds into escrow pursuant  
38 to this subsection shall annually certify to the Attorney General that it is in compliance with this  
39 subsection. The Attorney General may bring a civil action on behalf of the State against any  
40 tobacco product manufacturer that fails to place into escrow the funds required under this  
41 section. Any tobacco product manufacturer that fails in any year to place into escrow the funds  
42 required under this section shall--

43 (A) be required within 15 days to place such funds into escrow as shall bring it into  
44 compliance with this section. The court, upon a finding of a violation of this subsection, may  
45 impose a civil penalty to be paid to the State's general revenue fund in an amount not to exceed  
46 5 percent of the amount improperly withheld from escrow per day of the violation and in a total  
47 amount not to exceed 100 percent of the original amount improperly withheld from escrow;

48 (B) in the case of a knowing violation, be required within 15 days to place such funds  
49 into escrow as shall bring it into compliance with this section. The court, upon a finding of a  
50 knowing violation of this subsection, may impose a civil penalty to be paid to the State's general  
51 revenue fund in an amount not to exceed 15 percent of the amount improperly withheld from  
52 escrow per day of the violation and in a total amount not to exceed 300 percent of the original  
53 amount improperly withheld from escrow; and

54 (C) in the case of a second knowing violation, be prohibited from selling cigarettes to  
55 consumers within the State (whether directly or through a distributor, retailer or similar  
56 intermediary) for a period not to exceed 2 years.

57 Each failure to make an annual deposit required under this section shall constitute a  
58 separate violation. Any tobacco product manufacturer that violates the provisions of this section  
59 shall pay the State's cost and attorney's fees incurred during a successful prosecution under this  
60 section.

Section B. Because immediate action is necessary to protect the economic welfare of the  
2 citizens of this state, section A of this act is deemed necessary for the immediate preservation  
3 of the public health, welfare, peace, and safety, and is hereby declared to be an emergency act  
4 within the meaning of the constitution, and section A of this act shall be in full force and effect  
5 upon its passage and approval.

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