



For Immediate Release
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GOVERNOR NEWSOM SIGNS LEGISLATION TO ENSURE CANNABIS VAPING DEVICES ARE MARKETED FOR SAFE DISPOSAL

(SACRAMENTO) – On Sunday, Governor Gavin Newsom signed into law [California's Assembly Bill 1894](#) by Assemblymembers Luz Rivas (D-San Fernando) and Cottie Petrie-Norris (D-Irvine) and sponsored by the National Stewardship Action Council (NSAC), to prohibit the marketing of cannabis vaping devices as disposable or imply they may be thrown in the trash.

“We can no longer ignore the harmful impacts that electronics and batteries in cannabis vapes has on our environment and waste industry. AB 1894 takes an important step forward in prohibiting the advertisement, and marketing of cannabis vaporizers devices that are ‘disposable’ or may be thrown in the trash or recycled,” stated Assemblywoman Luz Rivas. “I applaud the cannabis industry for adhering to their commitment of being environmentally friendly and for recognizing electronic vapes cannot be discarded in household waste. I would specifically like to highlight the excellent advocacy of the National Stewardship Action Council for their work putting the environment first and for being national leaders on this issue. Consumers have the right be educated on how to properly dispose a vape product in order to make a conscious effort to protect the environment.”

Fires in the materials management system have increased dramatically in recent years, and lithium-ion batteries like those used in vape devices are a leading cause. While battery powered vaping devices have become an increasingly popular method of consuming cannabis, they are considered hazardous waste in California and are banned from disposal in the trash or recycling. Unfortunately, some brands instruct consumers to throw them away, which results in vapes being improperly disposed of in our materials management system illegally and where they have the potential to cause more fires that can endanger people, machinery, and the environment.

“At Republic Services, safety is our top value, and we applaud the state’s efforts to prevent fires in recycling and waste facilities,” said Pete Keller, Republic Services vice president of recycling and sustainability.

In addition to AB 1894, the legislature further addressed this issue with the passage of SB 1215 (Newman), which expands California’s existing e-waste program to include battery-embedded products and includes cannabis vapes. Governor Newsom also signed into law AB 2440 (Irwin), which requires the producers of batteries to fund and operate a take-back program for their products. However, proper marketing and advertising was still a critical first step in addressing

this issue.

California has become a leader in advocating for “truth in labeling” by requiring brands to truthfully label, market, and/or advertise their products and packaging for proper recycling or management as was done in 2021 with NSAC-sponsored SB 343 (Allen) for recycling labeling and AB 818 (Bloom) for proper labeling of wipes not as “flushable”. Consumers should be able to make informed purchasing decisions by being provided accurate information in marketing and advertising of the product regarding end-of-life disposal.

“Duping consumers into thinking single-use vape pens are safe to throw in the trash has proved to be toxic for our environment. And with the rise in fires caused by incorrectly disposing of vape products, California is now ensuring truth-in-advertising so we can all make educated choices on how to best protect ourselves and our communities,” said Assemblymember Cottie Petrie-Norris.

“Truthful marketing of products is crucial for consumers to make educated purchasing and disposal decisions that send true market signals to producers,” said Jordan Wells, NSAC Director of Advocacy and Communications.

AB 1894 received unanimous votes on both the Senate and Assembly Floors, and [was signed by Governor Newsom on Sunday, September 18th along with 9 other cannabis-related bills](#). AB 1894 was a result of a collaboration with numerous stakeholders, including the cannabis industry which advocated for the bill’s passage.

"AB 1894 recognizes the importance of these cannabis products to patients and consumers while also providing valuable information to ensure they are disposed properly and safely," said Amy O'Gorman Jenkins, legislative advocate for the California Cannabis Industry Association. "We appreciate the author and sponsors for proactively working with the California Cannabis Industry Association to advance sensible provisions that will improve environmental sustainability and responsible cannabis use -- two foundational values of the legal cannabis industry."

About NSAC – www.nsaction.us

National Stewardship Action Council (NSAC) was founded in 2015 as a 501(c)(4) nonprofit organization that engages in education and advocacy work that drives a circular and equitable economy, anywhere in the U.S., and at any level of government. Our vision is that the U.S. achieve a circular and equitable economy. You can follow us on social media via [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [LinkedIn](#), and [You Tube](#).