



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 13

February Session, 2026

Substitute House Bill No. 5269

House of Representatives, March 11, 2026

The Committee on Children reported through REP. PARIS of the 145th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A WORKING GROUP TO STUDY ENERGY DRINK CONSUMPTION BY CHILDREN AND REQUIRING CERTAIN SIGNAGE AT THE POINT OF SALE OF SUCH DRINKS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (*Effective from passage*) (a) For the purposes of this section,
2 (1) "energy drink" means a soft drink that contains (A) not less than
3 eighty milligrams of caffeine per nine fluid ounces, and (B)
4 methylxanthines, B vitamins, one or more herbal ingredients or an
5 ingredient labeled "energy blend", and (2) "social media" has the same
6 meaning as provided in section 9-601 of the general statutes.

7 (b) There is established a working group to (1) study the (A) health
8 risks associated with energy drink consumption by children, and (B)
9 anticipated effects of a prohibition on the sale of energy drinks to
10 children on (i) the state-wide sale of energy drinks, and (ii) public health,
11 and (2) make recommendations for (A) a public awareness campaign
12 concerning such risks that shall include, but need not be limited to, a
13 video recording for publication or broadcast on television and social

14 media, and (B) signage alerting consumers to such risks, to be posted at
15 the point of sale of energy drinks in retail establishments.

16 (c) The Commissioners of Public Health and Consumer Protection
17 shall jointly convene the working group, which shall include, but need
18 not be limited to, the chairpersons and ranking members of the General
19 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to children and public
20 health, and the following additional members, who shall be selected
21 jointly by the commissioners: (1) An individual with expertise in
22 advertising and marketing, (2) the parent or guardian of a child who
23 experienced adverse health conditions or died due to the consumption
24 of energy drinks, (3) a pediatric cardiologist, (4) a representative of a
25 state-wide chapter of a national association of pediatricians, (5) a
26 representative of a state-wide governing body for interscholastic athletic
27 activities, (6) a representative of a children's hospital in the state, (7) a
28 representative of a state-wide association of food retailers, wholesalers,
29 distributors and service providers, (8) a representative of a
30 manufacturer of energy drinks, and (9) a licensed athletic trainer. The
31 Commissioners of Public Health and Consumer Protection, or the
32 commissioners' designees, shall serve as cochairpersons of the working
33 group. The administrative staff of the joint standing committee of the
34 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to children
35 shall serve as administrative staff of the working group.

36 (d) Not later than November 1, 2026, the cochairpersons of the
37 working group shall submit a report on the working group's findings
38 and recommendations to the joint standing committees of the General
39 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to children, public
40 health and consumer protection in accordance with the provisions of
41 section 11-4a of the general statutes.

42 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) For the purposes of this
43 section, (1) "energy drink" means a soft drink that contains (A) not less
44 than eighty milligrams of caffeine per nine fluid ounces, and (B)
45 methylxanthines, B vitamins, one or more herbal ingredients or an
46 ingredient labeled "energy blend", and (2) "social media" has the same

47 meaning as provided in section 9-601 of the general statutes.

48 (b) Not later than December 1, 2026, the Department of Consumer
49 Protection shall develop signage alerting consumers to the health risks
50 associated with energy drink consumption by children and make a
51 printable copy of such signage available on the department's Internet
52 web site. Such signage shall incorporate the recommendations
53 submitted by the working group established pursuant to section 1 of this
54 act.

55 (c) On and after January 1, 2027, each individual, firm, fiduciary,
56 partnership, corporation, limited liability company, trust or association
57 engaged in the business of selling energy drinks to retail consumers in
58 the state shall post the signage developed pursuant to subsection (b) of
59 this section in a conspicuous place at the point of sale of such energy
60 drinks.

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|---|---------------------|-------------|
| This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections: | | |
| Section 1 | <i>from passage</i> | New section |
| Sec. 2 | <i>from passage</i> | New section |

Statement of Legislative Commissioners:

In Section 1(b)(2)(B), "signage to be posted at the point of sale of energy drinks in retail establishments alerting consumers to such risks" was changed to "signage alerting consumers to such risks, to be posted at the point of sale of energy drinks in retail establishments" for clarity, and in Subsec. (d), "study" was changed to "findings" for clarity.

KID Joint Favorable Subst. -LCO

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact: None

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill makes various changes regarding energy drinks and children resulting in no fiscal impact to the state.

Section 1 creates a working group to study the risks associated with energy drink consumption by children and the anticipated effects of a prohibition on the sale of energy drinks to children resulting in no fiscal impact because the working group has the expertise to meet the requirements of the bill.

Section 2 requires the Department of Consumer Protection to develop signage regarding the health risks of energy drink consumption by children and requires any business that sells energy drinks to post the signage resulting in no fiscal impact to the state.

The Out Years

State Impact: None

Municipal Impact: None

OLR Bill Analysis**sHB 5269*****AN ACT ESTABLISHING A WORKING GROUP TO STUDY ENERGY DRINK CONSUMPTION BY CHILDREN AND REQUIRING CERTAIN SIGNAGE AT THE POINT OF SALE OF SUCH DRINKS.*****SUMMARY**

This bill establishes a working group to (1) study the health risks associated with children consuming energy drinks and effects of banning their sale to children and (2) make recommendations on informational material, including signs, about the risks. The group must report its findings and recommendations to the legislature by November 1, 2026.

The bill separately requires the Department of Consumer Protection (DCP), by December 1, 2026, to (1) develop signage that incorporates the working group's recommendations and alerts consumers to the health risks associated with children drinking energy drinks and (2) post a printable copy of the signage on its website.

Beginning January 1, 2027, it also requires retailers that sell energy drinks to post the signage in a conspicuous place at their point of sale in their establishments. This requirement applies to individuals, firms, fiduciaries, partnerships, corporations, limited liability companies, trusts, and associations that sell energy drinks.

Under the bill, an energy drink is a soft drink containing (1) at least 80 milligrams of caffeine per nine fluid ounces and (2) methylxanthines, B vitamins, one or more herbal ingredients, or an ingredient labeled "energy blend."

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

WORKING GROUP ON CHILDREN AND ENERGY DRINKS***Group Charge***

The working group must study (1) the health risks associated with children consuming energy drinks and (2) how banning their sale to children would affect public health and statewide energy drink sales. It must also make recommendations for (1) a public awareness campaign on the health risks, including a video for television and social media, and (2) signage to be posted at the point of sale of energy drinks in retail establishments to alert consumers to the risks.

Membership

Under the bill, the Department of Public Health (DPH) and DCP commissioners, or their designees, serve as co-chairpersons of the working group, which they must convene.

The group also includes the Children and Public Health committees' chairpersons and ranking members and at least the following people selected jointly by the DPH and DCP commissioners:

1. an advertising and marketing expert;
2. a parent or guardian of a child who experienced adverse health conditions or died from drinking energy drinks;
3. a pediatric cardiologist;
4. a national association of pediatricians' statewide chapter representative;
5. a statewide interscholastic athletic activity governing body representative;
6. a children's hospital representative;
7. a statewide association of food retailers, wholesalers, distributors, and service providers representative;
8. an energy drinks manufacturer representative; and

9. a licensed athletic trainer.

The Children Committee’s administrative staff must serve as the group’s administrative staff.

Report Deadline

The working group’s co-chairpersons must submit a report on the group’s findings and recommendations to the Children, Public Health, and General Law committees by November 1, 2026.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Committee on Children

Joint Favorable

Yea 12 Nay 5 (03/03/2026)