Legislature Passes Under-18 Tan Ban

New Law Takes Effect January 1, 2014

Citing research showing an increased risk of skin cancer in people who begin tanning early in life, the 2013 Oregon Legislature passed House Bill 2896, which prohibits minors from tanning in commercial establishments. Governor Kitzhaber signed the bill into law May 16.

HB 2896 states that "an entity doing business in this state as a tanning facility may not allow a person who is under 18 years of age to use a tanning device that is owned or operated by the entity."

There is an exception in the law for minors who have a doctors written recommendation for use of a tanning bed.

Before the new law takes effect, the Public Health Division’s Radiation Protection Services (RPS) will write administrative rules that spell out how it will be enforced.

Tanning operators and members of the public will have an opportunity to review proposed new rules and provide RPS with comments, either in writing or at a public hearing.

RPS will mail updates on the rule-making process to tanning operators and other interested parties. The updates will include the proposed rules, as well as an explanation of the rule hearings process.

Tanning operators can comment on the proposed new rules before the law takes effect in January

The administrative rules will deal with issues such as identification requirements, documentation of proof of age and record keeping related to proof of age. Rules will also be written to clarify what documentation will be required for minors who receive a prescription.

RPS is planning on working with a group of tanning facility owners to develop and refine the rule changes.