

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

REQUEST FOR INTERIM STUDY PROPOSAL

DATE: 6/19/2026

BY REPRESENTATIVE(S):

Pogemiller, Ellen

TOPIC OF THE PROPOSAL:

Vapes, kratom, THC products, and other substances focusing on youth access, marketing, regulation, health impacts, and policy

EXPLANATORY COMMENTS ON THE SCOPE OF THE STUDY PROPOSAL:

Title: Youth Access and Consumer Safety: Examining Vape Products, Kratom, THC-Derived Products, and Emerging Retail Intoxicants in Oklahoma

Purpose

To examine the availability, marketing, regulation, and public health impacts of vape products, kratom, THC-derived products (Delta-8, Delta-9 hemp-derived THC, THCA, Delta-10, etc.), and other intoxicating substances commonly sold in convenience stores, smoke shops, and retail establishments, with a focus on youth exposure and consumer protection.

Key Questions

1. How Are These Products Marketed to Youth?

- Product packaging, colors, flavors, and branding.
- Social media marketing and influencer promotion.
- Placement in convenience stores and retail settings.
- Online sales and age verification practices.
- Appeal of candy, fruit, and beverage-flavored products.

2. What Products Are Currently Being Sold?

- Nicotine vapes and disposable e-cigarettes.
- Hemp-derived THC products.
- Kratom products.
- Other emerging substances sold through retail channels.
- Product potency and labeling concerns.

3. What Does Oklahoma Law Currently Require?

Vapes

- Age restrictions.
- Licensing and enforcement.
- Retail compliance rates.

Kratom

- Review of the Oklahoma Kratom Consumer Protection Act.
- Restrictions on adulterated products.

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- Labeling requirements.
- Prohibition on sales to individuals under 18.
- Enforcement mechanisms and compliance.

THC-Derived Products

- Distinction between marijuana and hemp-derived cannabinoids.
- Current regulation of Delta-8, THCA, and similar products.
- Testing and labeling requirements.
- Retail sales framework.

4. What Are Other States Doing?

- Licensing requirements.
- Product testing standards.
- Packaging and labeling regulations.
- Flavor restrictions.
- Age restrictions (18 vs. 21).
- Potency caps.
- Taxation and enforcement models.
- Retail zoning restrictions near schools.

5. What Are the Public Health Impacts?

- Youth usage trends.
- Addiction and dependence concerns.
- Poison control and emergency room data.
- School discipline and behavioral concerns.
- Long-term health outcomes.
- Impact on brain development in adolescents.

Potential Presenters

State Agencies

- Oklahoma State Department of Health
- Oklahoma Bureau of Narcotics
- Oklahoma Medical Marijuana Authority
- Oklahoma Tax Commission
- Oklahoma Attorney General's Office

Health Experts

- Pediatricians
- Adolescent medicine specialists
- Addiction medicine physicians
- Poison control experts
- Behavioral health providers

Education and Youth Organizations

- Oklahoma State School Boards Association
- Oklahoma PTA
- Oklahoma educators and school administrators
- Youth-serving organizations

Industry Representatives

- Retailers
- Convenience store associations
- Vape industry representatives

- Kratom industry representatives
- Hemp industry representatives

Potential Policy Recommendations for Discussion

1. Raise minimum age requirements where applicable.
2. Require child-resistant packaging.
3. Restrict flavors shown to disproportionately appeal to youth.
4. Establish testing and labeling standards for hemp-derived THC products.
5. Create licensing requirements for retailers selling intoxicating products.
6. Increase penalties for sales to minors.
7. Require warning labels and potency disclosures.
8. Limit advertising near schools and youth-centered locations.
9. Improve data collection on youth use and adverse health outcomes.
10. Evaluate whether Oklahoma's current kratom framework adequately protects consumers and minors.

Legislative Research Questions

- Are Oklahoma's existing age restrictions being effectively enforced?
- Do current laws adequately address newer hemp-derived intoxicants?
- Should hemp-derived THC products be regulated similarly to alcohol, tobacco, or medical marijuana?
- Are there enforcement gaps between state agencies?
- What consumer protections have proven effective in other states?
- How can Oklahoma reduce youth access while balancing adult consumer access?

This study would fit well within both the Public Health and Common Education policy areas because it addresses youth health, school impacts, consumer safety, and emerging regulatory challenges.

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