

Law No. 394

Warning of the Hazards of Smoking

The National Assembly has confirmed and the President of the Republic has promulgated the following law:

Article 1: The importation, manufacture, and sale of all kinds of cigarettes, cigars, tobacco, pipe tobacco, tobacco in packages, and Persian tobacco is prohibited unless each individual package has the statement specified in Article 2 of this law written on it clearly and so that it is easily legible to the naked eye.

Article 2: Advertising of smoking products is subject to the requirement that it includes, no matter what type of advertising media, the following statement:

Ministry of Health Warning: Smoking causes serious and fatal diseases.

Printed advertising in the press or on ordinary or lighted billboards, must allocate a separate area for this statement, above or below the advertisement, equal to 15% (fifteen percent) of the total area of the advertisement in clear letters legible from a distance.

In video advertising (television, movies) a special field shall be allocated for this warning message, using clear and legible letters, that remains displayed throughout the duration of the advertisement.

Distribution of free samples of smoking products or promotional materials for smoking products to anyone less than 18 years of age is absolutely prohibited at concerts or social festivals or during sports, environmental, or scientific activities, or anywhere else.

Article 3: Any violation of the provisions of this law shall be punished by imprisonment from one week to one month and a fine of 5 million Lebanese pounds.

In the event of recurrence, the punishment of imprisonment shall be increased, from one month to six months and the fine shall become 15 million Lebanese pounds.

Article 4: If necessary, the details of the application of the provisions of this law – with the exception of Article 3 – shall be specified in regulations enacted by the cabinet at the proposal of the Minister of Public Health.

Article 5: Legislative regulation No. 101/83 of 9/16/1983 pertaining to warning the citizens about the hazards of smoking is null and void as of the date that the new provisions specified in Article 6 of this law go into effect.

Article 6: With regard to the application of the provisions of Article 1, this law takes effect six months after it is published in the official gazette.