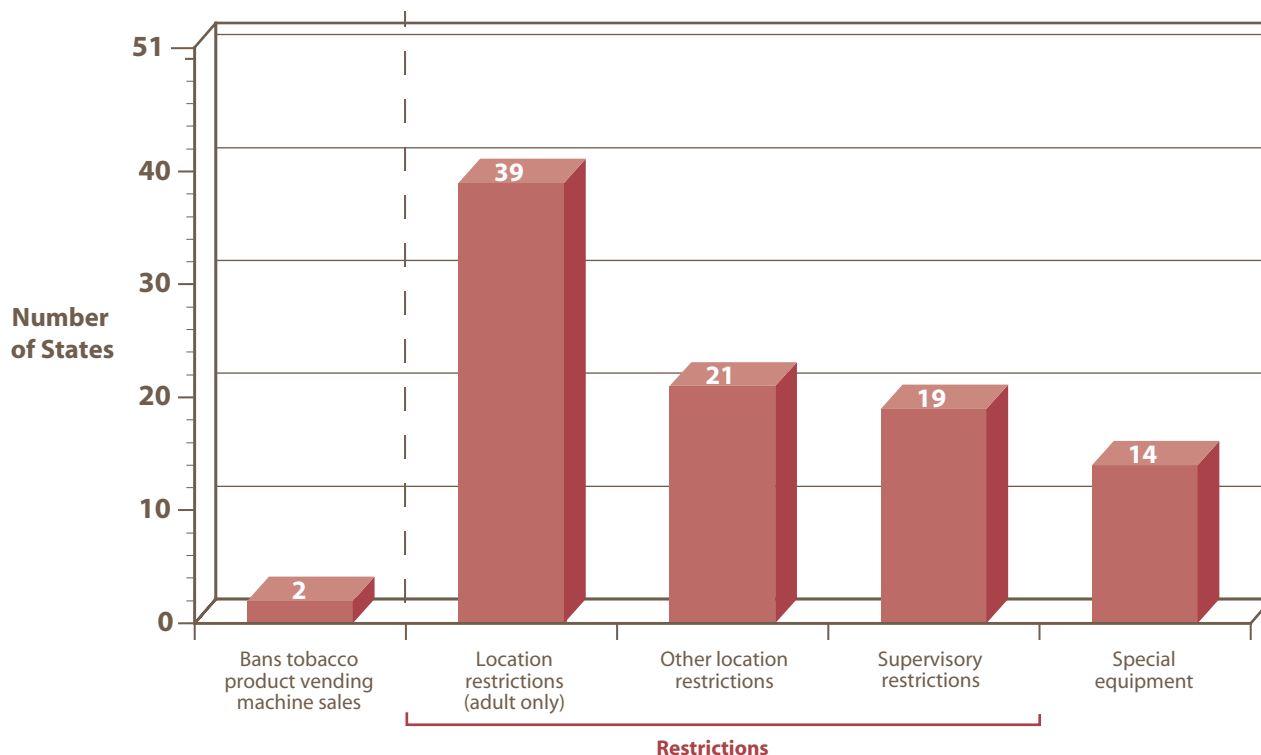


LEGISLATIVE DATA BYTE

State Laws Addressing Youth Access to Tobacco Products through Vending Machines (as of March 31, 2003)



With the exception of **Alabama** and **South Carolina**, all states and the **District of Columbia** have enacted laws that impose specific restrictions on youth access to tobacco through vending machines. Laws in these states vary from establishing location restrictions, requiring employee operation or special equipment, or banning the vending machine sale of tobacco products entirely. As of March 31, 2003, two states—**Idaho** and **Vermont**—ban the sale of all tobacco products through vending machines.

Thirty-nine states have laws that limit the placement of vending machines to places inaccessible to minors, including bars, businesses that do not employ minors, and other adult-only locations. Laws that restrict the placement of tobacco product vending machines to specified locations, such as employee break rooms, restricted areas of factories, or businesses not open to the general public, have been enacted in 21 states. Fourteen states have laws that require employees to operate vending machines or the use of special equipment to prevent minors from obtaining tobacco products through such machines. Special equipment includes lock-out devices and

token-operated machines that prevent direct access. Nineteen states have laws that mandate supervision of tobacco product vending machines by an adult or an establishment's employees.

Examples of other types of vending machine restrictions are found in the following three states. The primary provision of **Massachusetts'** law requires signs to be posted on tobacco vending machines stating that persons under 18 are prohibited from using such machines. The law also outlines penalties for minors who purchase tobacco from vending machines, and retailers who permit such purchases or fail to post signs. The law in **New Jersey** prohibits tobacco vending machines on school property. **North Dakota** law declares it illegal to sell tobacco products to minors through vending machines, but sets forth no other restrictions.

Note: Specific state provisions described here often are not mutually exclusive. A majority of states have provisions requiring the use of special equipment or employee supervision in addition to vending machines location restrictions.