

**ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 175-ZONING OF THE FRONT ROYAL TOWN  
CODE TO DEFINE AND PERMIT VAPE SHOPS**

WHEREAS, on November 25, 2025, Council directed the Front Royal Planning Commission to recommend a proposed tobacco, smoke and vape shop ordinance to promote the health, safety and general welfare of the public; and,

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ENACTED, by the Town Council of the Town of Front Royal, Virginia that Chapters 175-3, 175-39.A., 175-39.B., 175-53.2.A., 175-53.2.B. and 175-152 of the Front Royal Town Code hereby be amended and enacted as follows:

**CHAPTER 175 ZONING**

**175-3 DEFINITIONS**

**TOBACCO, SMOKE, OR VAPE SHOP:** A business involving the sale of tobacco products, nicotine vapor products, or alternative nicotine products, as those terms are defined in the Code of Virginia § 18.2-371.2, or hemp products intended for smoking, as such term defined in §3.2-4112, or any kratom products as regulated by the Code of Virginia § 59.1-200, or paraphernalia, and where any combination of any such products represent twenty-five (25) percent or more of the store's total inventory or fifteen (15) percent or more of the store's total display area.

“Paraphernalia” refers to any objects, devices, or equipment that are primarily used to facilitate or enhance the act of smoking or vaping. This includes but not limited to; cigarette rolling papers, Cigarette filters, Pipes, Bongs, Hookahs, Vape Pens and E-Cigarettes, Grinders, Rolling Machines, Screens and Dab Rigs.

-----  
**175-39 USE REGULATIONS (C-1)**

A. Subject to the standards and requirements set forth in this Chapter, except as prohibited or restricted by separate restrictions of record that may pertain to property within the C-1 District, the following uses of land and buildings are permitted by-right in the C-1 District:

COMMERCIAL:

**Tobacco, smoke or vape shop in accordance with provisions of 175-152.**

B. The following uses are permitted within the C-1 District only by approval of a special use permit, except as prohibited or restricted by separate restrictions of record that may pertain to property within the C-1 District:

COMMERCIAL:

**Tobacco, smoke or vape shop.**

-----

**175-53.2 USE REGULATIONS (C-3)**

A. Subject to the standards and requirements set forth in this Chapter, except as prohibited or restricted by separate restrictions of record that may pertain to property within the C-3 District, the following uses of land and buildings are permitted by-right in the C-3 District:

COMMERCIAL:

**Tobacco, smoke or vape shop in accordance with provisions of 175-152.**

B. The following uses are permitted within the C-3 District only by approval of a special use permit, except as prohibited or restricted by separate restrictions of record that may pertain to property within the C-3 District:

COMMERCIAL:

**Tobacco, smoke or vape shop.**

-----

**175-152 TOBACCO, SMOKE, OR VAPE SHOP PERFORMANCE STANDARDS**


**A. Definitions**


*For purposes of this section only, tobacco, smoke, or vape shop shall be defined as A business involving the sale of tobacco products, nicotine vapor products, or alternative nicotine products, as those terms are defined in the Code of Virginia § 18.2-371.2, or hemp products intended for smoking, as such term defined in §3.2-4112, or any kratom products as regulated by the Code of Virginia § 59.1-200.*

**B. Performance Standards**

1. Shall not be located within 1,000 feet of any child or day care center, as defined in §22.1-289.02 or a public, private, or parochial school.
  - a. Measurements made to verify compliance shall be made in a straight line, without regard for structures or objects, for, 1,000 feet from the boundaries of the property on which a public or private school or day care center

THIS ORDINANCE SHALL BE EFFECTIVE UPON ADOPTION

APPROVED:  
  
Lori A. Cockrell, Mayor

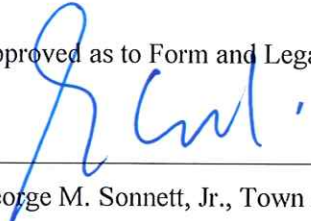
ATTEST:  
  
Tina L. Presley, Clerk of Council

*Vote on following page*

This Ordinance was adopted at the Regular Meeting of the Town of Front Royal, Virginia Town Council conducted on February 24, 2025, 2025 upon the following recorded vote:

R. Wayne Sealock	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	H. Bruce Rappaport	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Joshua L. Ingram	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Melissa DeDomenico-Payne	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Amber F. Veitenthal	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	Glenn E. Wood	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

A public hearing on the above was held on January 27, 2025 having been advertised in the Northern Virginia Daily on January 13, and January 21, 2025. The public hearing continued on February 24, 2025 having been advertised in the Northern Virginia Daily on February 10 and February 18, 2025.

Approved as to Form and Legality:  
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
George M. Sonnett, Jr., Town Attorney

Dated: 02-26-2025