Sec. 12.1200. Purpose.
The Howard County Council finds and declares that tobacco products are a hazard to the health of the general public, especially youth, and that tobacco products should be made accessible at retail places only through the intervention of the retail seller or seller's employee.  
(C.B. 51, 2000)

(a) A retail seller of any tobacco product must not display or store the product in any place that is accessible to buyers of the product without the intervention of the seller or an employee of the seller.  
(b) Tobacco product means any substance containing tobacco, including cigarettes, cigars, smoking tobacco, snuff or smokeless tobacco.  
(c) This section does not apply to:  
(1) The sale of any tobacco product from a vending machine that complies with all requirements of state law; and  
(2) Any store where only or primarily tobacco products are sold.  
(C.B. 51, 2000)

Sec. 12.1202. Enforcement.  
(a) An owner or person in charge of a retail establishment covered by this subtitle shall comply with all the requirements herein.  
(b) Any citizen who desires to register a complaint under this subtitle may file a complaint with the county Health Officer.  
(c) If, during routine inspections of retail establishments covered by this subtitle, the County Department of Fire and Rescue or inspectors under the County Health Officer or the Board of License Commissioners find that the requirements of this subtitle are not being met, they shall report such non-compliance to the Health Officer.  
(C.B. 51, 2000)

Sec. 12.1203. Penalties.  
(a) It shall be unlawful for a person to store or display tobacco products in a retail establishment if not in compliance with the provisions of this subtitle.  
(b) A violation of this subtitle is a civil offense and is subject to a penalty based on the following schedule and costs.  
TABLE INSET:

<p>| First Offense | $250 fine imposed on offender and offender is given two weeks to comply with the provisions of this subtitle before being subject to a fine for a second offense |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Offense</th>
<th>Fine Imposed on Offender</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Second</td>
<td>$500 fine imposed on offender</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Third</td>
<td>$750 fine imposed on offender</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fourth</td>
<td>$1,000 fine imposed on offender</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>