



Legislative Update

February 19, 2007

Please read and forward to your colleagues and networks!

General Assembly Convenes; Secondhand Smoke Issues Receiving Much Attention

The North Carolina General Assembly began its long session on January 24. Nearly three weeks into the session, it appears the secondhand smoke issue will be one of the higher profile issues of the session. Bills have already been introduced to eliminate secondhand smoke from all state government buildings while another bill is expected to be introduced any day to make all worksites and public places smoke-free across the state. Here's a run down on the bills that have been introduced so far:

- 1) HB 24 - AN ACT TO PROTECT THE PUBLIC FROM THE HEALTH RISKS OF SECONDHAND SMOKE BY PROHIBITING SMOKING IN BUILDINGS OWNED, LEASED, OR OCCUPIED BY STATE GOVERNMENT. Primary sponsors of this bill are Rep. Jennifer Weiss (D-Wake) and Rep. Rick Glazier (D-Cumberland). You may recall that Rep. Weiss was the primary sponsor of the bill to raise North Carolina's cigarette tax while Rep. Glazier was the primary House sponsor of last year's legislation to make the General Assembly buildings smoke-free. This bill has been referred to the House Health Committee. To see the full text of this bill, go to: <http://www.ncleg.net/sessions/2007/bills/house/html/h24v1.html>
- 2) SB 43 - AN ACT TO PROTECT THE PUBLIC FROM THE HEALTH RISKS OF SECONDHAND SMOKE BY PROHIBITING SMOKING IN BUILDINGS OWNED, LEASED, OR OCCUPIED BY STATE GOVERNMENT, AS RECOMMENDED BY THE JUSTUS-WARREN HEART DISEASE AND STROKE PREVENTION TASK FORCE. The primary sponsor of this bill is Senator William Purcell (D-Scotland). Senator Purcell was the primary Senate sponsor of last year's bill to make the General Assembly Buildings smoke-free. This bill has been referred to the Senate Health Committee. To see the full text of this bill, go to: <http://www.ncleg.net/sessions/2007/bills/senate/html/s43v1.html>
- 3) SB 124 - AN ACT AUTHORIZING LOCAL GOVERNMENTS TO ADOPT LAWS, RULES, OR ORDINANCES REGULATING SMOKING IN PUBLIC PLACES. This bill would restore authority to local governments to regulate smoking in public places by repealing the existing pre-emptive law. Current law prevents local governments from enacting laws to regulate smoking that are more restrictive than state law. The primary sponsor of this bill is the Senate Majority Leader Tony Rand (D-Cumberland). This bill has been referred to the Judiciary 1 Committee. For the full text of this Senate bill, go to: <http://www.ncleg.net/sessions/2007/bills/senate/html/s124v1.html>
A similar bill is expected to be introduced shortly in the House by Rep. Rick Glazier (D-Cumberland).

Finally, new House Majority Leader Rep. Hugh Holliman (D-Davidson) is expected to introduce this week a bill to make all North Carolina worksites and public places smoke-free. Members of the North Carolina Alliance for Health have been working with Rep. Holliman to craft as strong a bill as possible. More information will be forwarded on this bill when it is introduced. Needless to say, the introduction of a statewide bill making all worksites and public places smoke-free will be historic for a tobacco-growing state like NC. The media has already expressed interest. Stay tuned!

What can you do to promote the secondhand smoke issue?

- 1) Please thank Reps. Jennifer Weiss, Rick Glazier and Senator William Purcell for introducing legislation to make all state government buildings smoke-free. This is the logical next step after making the General Assembly Buildings (filled with state employees) smoke-free.
Rep. Jennifer Weiss (D- Wake): Jenniferw@ncleg.net; 919-733-5781
Rep. Rick Glazier (D- Cumberland): Rickg@ncleg.net; 919-733-5601
Sen. William Purcell (D-Scotland): Williamp@ncleg.net; 919-733-5953
Please thank Senator Tony Rand for introducing legislation to repeal pre-emption and return local control:
Sen. Tony Rand (D-Cumberland): Tonyr@ncleg.net; 919-733-9892

- 2) Contact your representative and senator and urge him or her to support efforts to make all state government buildings smoke-free (HB 24/SB 43). We expect that these bills will be considered first by both the House and Senate. All legislators can be reached by calling 919-733-4111 and asking for your representative or senator by name. If you are not sure of the name of your representative or senator, check the General Assembly's website at:
http://www.ncga.state.nc.us/GIS/Representation/Who_Represents_Me/Who_Represents_Me.html

For a full set of talking points about the dangers of secondhand smoke, go to the Alliance website at:
http://www.ncallianceforhealth.org/pdfs/Talking_Points_SHS_Gen.pdf

- 3) Have your organization, its board members, staff and volunteers sign the Alliance's secondhand smoke resolution to demonstrate your support for making NC's worksites and public places smoke-free. Access the resolution by going to the Alliance's website at:
<http://www.rtpnet.org/alliance/resolution.html>
The website is now capable to taking signatures directly on-line. Also available on our website are fact sheets, talking points and other resources on secondhand smoke and the cigarette tax.

Stay tuned for further developments on efforts to make North Carolina's worksites and public places smoke-free!

Last but not least

Members and partners of the North Carolina Alliance for Health have been invited by the Covenant with North Carolina's Children to attend their 2007 Biennial Annual meeting and reception. This meeting presents Alliance members and partners with an opportunity to hear from and meet Speaker Joe Hackney AND, more importantly, join in honoring Rep. Rick Glazier for his work last session. Of interest to the Alliance will be the recognition of Rep. Glazier for his efforts to make the General Assembly buildings smoke-free (protecting thousands of school children every year). Please consider joining the Covenant on Monday, March 12. See the information below from the Covenant:

Speaker Hackney Wants to Meet You

at the Covenant's

2007 Biennial Reception & Meeting



Speaker Joe Hackney will be the Keynote Speaker

Monday, March 12 from 4-6 p.m.
at the NC Association of Educators ([Driving Directions to NCAE Center](#))

It's open to the public, it's free, there's plenty of free parking and it's lobbying-reform compliant!

Rep. Rick Glazier (D-Cumberland) will be presented with the **Ruth M. Easterling House Award** and **Sen. John Snow (D-Cherokee)**, will receive the **William N. Martin Senate Award**.



Other award winners are **Jim & Barbara Goodman**, receiving the **Covenant's Excellence Award**; and **Jan Thompson**, Mecklenburg County Director of Inmate Services, who is receiving the **Charles Dunn Award**.

Please bring friends, colleagues and child advocates to this free event on March 12 at 4-6 p.m at NCAE.

All members of the NC General Assembly & Council of State will be invited to this event.
For more information, contact Brian Lewis at brian@nccovenant.org or (919)649-2449.

**For additional information about secondhand smoke issues or NC's cigarette tax,
access the Alliance website at www.ncallianceforhealth.org
for talking points and other resources.**

Call 919-463-8328
or e-mail ncalliance@heart.org for more information