



## Legislative Update & Action Alert

February 22, 2007

*Please read and forward to your colleagues and networks!*

### **Rep. Holliman Introduces Statewide Bill to Eliminate Smoking in Worksites & Public Places; House Health Committee to Consider HB 24 TUESDAY at NOON**

The NC General Assembly is wasting no time getting to work on secondhand smoke issues. The House Health Committee will consider HB 24, Prohibition of Smoking in State Buildings, on Tuesday, February 27 at noon in room 544 of the Legislative Office Building. This is the first of many important pieces of legislation that will be heard this session that will protect North Carolinians from exposure to secondhand smoke and restore local authority to make public places smoke free.

As written, HB 24 will make all state government buildings smoke free. We expect the bill to be amended in committee to *add* a provision to restore some local authority by allowing local governments to make local government buildings smoke free. A provision repealing the existing preemptive law is expected to be *removed* from the bill. (A separate bill to repeal preemption and restore local control has been introduced this week by Reps. Martha Alexander (D- Mecklenburg), Alma Adams (D-Guilford) and Carolyn Justice (R-Pender).)

To view HB 24 in its current form, go to:

<http://www.ncleg.net/Sessions/2007/Bills/House/HTML/H24v1.html>

### **Please Contact Members of the House Health Committee Before Noon on Tuesday!**

Please call, email and/or visit the members of the House Health Committee and encourage them to support HB 24 because:

- **it protects state workers from exposure to secondhand smoke – secondhand smoke kills;**
- **will allow local authorities to make local government buildings smoke free;**
- **making all state government buildings smoke-free is a logical next step after making the General Assembly buildings smoke-free. It is time to protect *all* state workers.**

For a full set of talking points about the dangers of secondhand smoke, go to the Alliance website: [http://www.ncallianceforhealth.org/pdfs/Talking\\_Points\\_SHS\\_Gen.pdf](http://www.ncallianceforhealth.org/pdfs/Talking_Points_SHS_Gen.pdf)

We have recently developed talking points on What is Preemption and What Does it Mean for North Carolinians? Please go to:

<http://www.ncallianceforhealth.org/pdfs/TalkingPointsPreemption2-07.pdf>

**How to Contact House Health Committee Members:**

(All phone numbers at 919 area code)

<b>Representatives</b>	<b>County</b>	<b>Party</b>	<b>Office Phone</b>	<b>E-Mail</b>
Committee Chair: Thomas E. Wright	New Hanover	D	733-5754	<a href="mailto:Tomw@ncleg.net">Tomw@ncleg.net</a>
Vice Chair: Beverly M. Earle	Mecklenburg	D	715-2530	<a href="mailto:Beverlye@ncleg.net">Beverlye@ncleg.net</a>
Vice Chair: Bob England, M.D.	Cleveland, Rutherford	D	733-5749	<a href="mailto:Bobe@ncleg.net">Bobe@ncleg.net</a>
Vice Chair: Ray Rapp	Haywood, Madison, Yancey	D	733-5732	<a href="mailto:Raymondrr@ncleg.net">Raymondrr@ncleg.net</a>
Alma Adams	Guilford	D	733-5902	<a href="mailto:Almaa@ncleg.net">Almaa@ncleg.net</a> HB 24 Co-sponsor
Martha B. Alexander	Mecklenburg	D	733-5807	<a href="mailto:Marthaa@ncleg.net">Marthaa@ncleg.net</a> HB 24 Co-sponsor
Marilyn Avila	Wake	R	733-5602	<a href="mailto:Marilyna@ncleg.net">Marilyna@ncleg.net</a>
Jeff Barnhart	Cabarrus	R	715-2009	<a href="mailto:Jeffba@ncleg.net">Jeffba@ncleg.net</a> HB 24 Co-sponsor
Joe Boylan	Moore	R	733-5903	<a href="mailto:Joeb@ncleg.net">Joeb@ncleg.net</a>
Harold J. Brubaker	Randolph	R	715-4946	<a href="mailto:Brub@ncleg.net">Brub@ncleg.net</a>
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Jean Farmer-Butterfield	Edgecomb, Wilson	D	733-5898	<a href="mailto:Jeanf@ncleg.net">Jeanf@ncleg.net</a>
Rick Glazier	Cumberland	D	733-5601	<a href="mailto:Rickg@ncleg.net">Rickg@ncleg.net</a> HB 24 Primary Sponsor
Bruce Goforth	Buncombe	D	733-5746	<a href="mailto:Bruceg@ncleg.net">Bruceg@ncleg.net</a>
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W. A. (Winkie) Wilkins	Durham, Person	D	715-0850	<a href="mailto:Winkiew@ncleg.net">Winkiew@ncleg.net</a>

## **Rep. Holliman Introduces Statewide Bill (HB 259) to Eliminate Smoking in Worksites & Public Places**

As expected, new House Majority Leader Rep. Hugh Holliman (D-Davidson) introduced legislation (HB 259) to make all enclosed public places and nearly all worksites smoke-free. The introduction of this bill is historic for a tobacco-growing state like NC.

We applaud Rep. Holliman for taking the lead on this important issue. This bill is a great first step for North Carolina. It will protect the vast majority of workers in our state from the dangers of second hand smoke. According to the Surgeon General, **there is no risk-free level of exposure to secondhand smoke.**

While this legislation does not protect all workers because it exempts some bars and private clubs, it is an important first step toward a comprehensive approach to protecting all North Carolinians from exposure to secondhand smoke. We look forward to working with Rep. Holliman and his colleagues in the General Assembly to pass HB 259 as part of our continuing effort to protect *all* North Carolina workers from the harmful effects of secondhand smoke.

To view the full text of HB 259, go to:

<http://www.ncga.state.nc.us/Sessions/2007/Bills/House/HTML/H259v1.html>

A summary of HB 259 will be distributed to the list serv next week.

### **What *MORE* can you do to promote the secondhand smoke issue?**

- 1) Please thank Rep. Hugh Holliman (D-Davidson) for introducing HB 259 to make NC worksites and public places smoke-free. Contact Rep. Holliman at 919-715-0873; [Hughh@ncleg.net](mailto:Hughh@ncleg.net)

- 2) Contact your representative and urge him or her to support HB 259 to make worksites and public places smoke-free. It is important to protect *all* workers from exposure to secondhand smoke, and this landmark legislation is an important first step toward protecting the health of North Carolinians.

All legislators can be reached by calling 919-733-4111 and asking for your representative by name. If you are not sure of the name of your representative, check the General Assembly's website at:

[http://www.ncga.state.nc.us/GIS/Representation/Who\\_Represents\\_Me/Who\\_Represents\\_Me.html](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](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!**

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

Call 919-463-8328  
or e-mail [ncalliance@heart.org](mailto:ncalliance@heart.org) for more information