



## Legislative Update & Action Alert

June 12, 2008

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

## House and Senate Health Committees Approve all Three Secondhand Smoke Bills

### Senate Floor Vote Expected Early Next Week, Contact YOUR Senator!

This week both the House and Senate Health Committees gave a favorable report to all three smoke-free bills:

- [S1681 / H2252 State and Local Motor Fleets](#) : Requires all vehicles owned, operated and leased by the state be 100% smoke-free and clarify that local governments have authority to make vehicles owned, operated and leased by local government 100% smoke-free.
- [S1686 / H2253 State and Local Grounds](#) : Protects state workers and the public from secondhand smoke by establishing a 50 ft smoke-free perimeter around state government buildings, and grant local governments authority to establish a smoke-free perimeter of up to 50 ft around local government buildings.
- [S1669 / H2254 Community College Grounds](#): Grants the governing boards of local community colleges the clear authority to prohibit smoking on the grounds of their community college campuses.

All three bills have been introduced by Sen. William Purcell and Rep. Jennifer Weiss on behalf of the Justus Warren Heart and Stroke Task Force. Talking points are now posted on the Alliance's website at <http://www.ncallianceforhealth.org/tobacco.html>.

The Senate will now take a full Senate floor vote on the bills, possibly as soon as Monday, June 16. On the House side, we expect the bills to make an additional stop next week in the House Judiciary-1 Committee for consideration.

**Please contact your Senator and members of the House Judiciary 1  
Committee to urge support for all three secondhand smoke bills!  
Please make your contacts by Monday, June 16.**

These bills will continue progress toward protecting all workers and citizens in North Carolina from the dangers of secondhand smoke. As an advocate for smoke-free air, please take action today and help North Carolina keep moving in the right direction.

**URGE** your Senator and House J-1 Committee members to **VOTE YES** on all three bills listed above (S1681 /H2252 State and Local Motor Fleets; S1686 / H2253 State and Local Grounds; S1669 / H2254 Community College Grounds).

**MESSAGE: Please support these bills; they will protect students, state employees and passersby from the dangerous effects of secondhand smoke and clarify local control over smoking regulation.**

### **Sample e-mail to legislators:**

**Subject Line:** Support Smoke-free Bills

Dear (legislator name),

As your constituent I urge you to support the following legislation:

- S1681 /H2252 State and Local Motor Fleets
- S1686 / H2253 State and Local Grounds
- S1669 / H2254 Community College Grounds

These bills will protect community college students and state employees from the dangerous effects of secondhand smoke and clarify local control over smoking regulation.

The State is one of the largest employers in North Carolina, and has a responsibility to set an example for other employers by providing a healthy working environment. State and local employees deserve to breathe smoke-free air working in the office and in government-controlled cars. Clouds of secondhand smoke around buildings expose everyone as they enter or exit the building and can contaminate indoor air.

Public school and UNC system students and employees are protected from the dangers of secondhand smoke both inside buildings and on campus grounds. Community college boards need the same authority to regulate smoking on the ground of their campuses.

Please vote yes for S1681 /H2252 State and Local Motor Fleets; S1686 / H2253 State and Local Grounds; S1669 / H2254 Community College Grounds. Let's continue to take steps forward to protect North Carolina citizens from the dangers of secondhand smoke.

Thank you.

### **To Contact Your Senator:**

To email your senator, go to this link for your senator's email address:

<http://www.ncga.state.nc.us/gascripts/members/reports/room-phone.pl?Chamber=Senate&viewType=normal>

If you are not sure of the name of your senator, 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)

To call your senator, please call 919-733-4111 and ask for the senator by name to be transferred.

## To Contact House Judiciary 1 Committee Members:

Double click on the legislator's name to retrieve a direct phone number or email address.

Chairman	<a href="#">Rep. Deborah Ross</a> (Wake)
Vice Chairman	<a href="#">Rep. Melanie Goodwin</a> (Richmond)
Vice Chairman	<a href="#">Rep. Skip Stam</a> (Wake)
Vice Chairman	<a href="#">Rep. Bonner Stiller</a> (Brunswick)
Members	<a href="#">Rep. Martha Alexander</a> (Mecklenburg)
	<a href="#">Rep. John Blust</a> (Guilford)
	<a href="#">Rep. Angela Bryant</a> (Nash)
	<a href="#">Rep. Debbie Clary</a> (Cleveland)
	<a href="#">Rep. Larry Hall</a> (Durham)
	<a href="#">Rep. Pricey Harrison</a> (Guilford)
	<a href="#">Rep. George Holmes</a> (Yadkin)
	<a href="#">Rep. Verla Insko</a> (Orange)
	<a href="#">Rep. Greir Martin</a> (Wake)
	<a href="#">Rep. Annie Mobley</a> (Hertford)
	<a href="#">Rep. Roger West</a> (Cherokee)

For additional information about the Alliance, please contact  
Alliance Executive Director Pam Seamans at [pamseamans@nc.rr.com](mailto:pamseamans@nc.rr.com);  
or Alliance Program Director Charlotte Ranz at [craz@mindspring.com](mailto:craz@mindspring.com).

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

Visit the Alliance's **new** website dedicated to making all worksites and public places smoke-free in NC. Simply point and click to send a message to your legislators.

[www.smokefreenc.org](http://www.smokefreenc.org)

Have your organization, its board members, staff and volunteers sign the Alliance's secondhand smoke resolution to demonstrate your support for making North Carolina's worksites and public places smoke-free. Access the resolution by going to the Alliance's website at:

<http://www.ncallianceforhealth.org/resolution.html>

Also available on our website are fact sheets, talking points and other resources on secondhand smoke and the cigarette tax.

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For additional information, go to  
[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