



Legislative Update & Action Alert

June 20, 2008

Please read and forward to your colleagues and networks!

Senate Approves Three Secondhand Smoke Bills

House Committee and Floor Votes Expected Next Week; Contact House Members

This week the full Senate voted to approve all three smoke-free bills!

- **[SB 1669 Community Colleges Tobacco-Free](#)**: Grants the governing boards of local community colleges the clear authority to make their community college campuses tobacco-free.
- **[SB 1681 State and Local Motor Fleets](#)**: Requires all vehicles owned, operated and leased by the state be 100% smoke-free and clarifies that local governments have authority to make vehicles owned, operated and leased by local government 100% smoke-free.
- **[SB 1686 State and Local Grounds](#)** : Protects state workers and the public by prohibiting smoking 25 ft from the entrances, windows and ventilation systems of state government buildings, and grants local government authority to establish a smoke-free perimeter of up to 50 ft around local government buildings.

SB 1669 (Community Colleges) has been sent to the House Health Committee and is expected to be heard in committee Tuesday, June 24. SB 1681 (State and Local Motor Fleets) and SB 1686 (State and Local Grounds) have been assigned to the House Judiciary 1 Committee. We expect these bills to be heard sometime next week as well. House floor votes are expected soon thereafter.

Please Contact your House Member to Urge Support for All Three Secondhand Smoke Bills!

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. Talking points for all three bills are posted on the Alliance's website at <http://www.ncallianceforhealth.org/tobacco.html>.

MESSAGE: URGE your House member to VOTE YES on all three bills (SB 1681 State and Local Motor Fleets; SB 1686 State and Local Grounds; SB 1669 Community Colleges Tobacco-Free).

These bills will protect students, state employees and passersby 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 offer its employees a safe and risk-free work place. Clouds of secondhand smoke around buildings expose everyone as they enter or exit a building and can contaminate indoor air. Even a little exposure is harmful. As little as thirty minutes of exposure can trigger a heart attack in someone with heart disease or risk factors for heart disease.

We can move North Carolina further down the road to smoke-free, so please send you message to House members.

Sample E-mail to House Members:

Subject Line: Support Smoke-free Bills

Dear (legislator name),

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

- S1669 Community Colleges Tobacco-Free
- S1681 State and Local Motor Fleets
- S1686 State and Local 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 their campuses.

Please vote yes for SB 1669 Community Colleges Tobacco-Free, SB 1681 State and Local Motor Fleets, and SB1686 State and Local Grounds. Let's continue to take steps forward to protect North Carolina citizens from the dangers of secondhand smoke.

Thank you.

To Contact Your House Member:

To email your Representative about the secondhand smoke bills, go to this link for your member's email address: <http://www.ncga.state.nc.us/gascripts/members/reports/room-phone.pl?Chamber=House&viewType=normal>

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

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

Alliance Budget Priorities

Two weeks ago the House approved its budget proposal. This week the Senate approved its budget proposal. The final House and Senate budgets include the following Alliance priorities:

- **The Tobacco Quitline** was funded in the Senate budget at \$500,000 recurring annually, but the funding comes from Health and Wellness Trust Fund dollars. The House budget funds the Tobacco Quitline at \$500,000 in recurring funds from the General Fund. Please urge House and Senate Budget Conferees to include this budget item in the final budget;
- **Obesity Prevention Projects** were funded in the Senate proposed budget at \$2 million in recurring funds but the funds would come from Health and Wellness Trust Fund dollars. The House proposed budget funded obesity demonstration projects at \$2 million in non-recurring funds annually (the original request was for \$12.5 million). Please urge House and Senate Budget Conferees to include this budget item;
- **Child Nutrition Programs** were funded in the Senate proposed budget at \$2 million in recurring funds. The House proposed budget funded child nutrition programs at \$4 million recurring annually (the original request was for \$20 million). Please urge House and Senate budget conferees to fund the child nutrition program at \$4 million recurring in the final budget;

Please contact House and Senate budget conferees to urge them to KEEP funding in the budget for Child Nutrition Programs, Obesity Prevention Projects and the Tobacco Quitline.

Please **URGE** House and Senate Budget Conferees to include \$2 million for DPH Obesity Prevention Projects, \$500,000 for the Tobacco Quitline and \$4 million for Child Nutrition Programs across the state.

For a list of House and Senate budget conferees and their contact information, go to:

<http://www.ncga.state.nc.us/gascripts/confcomm/confcommittee.pl?BillChamber=H&BillID=2436>

For additional information about the Alliance, please contact Alliance Executive Director Pam Seamans at pamseamans@nc.rr.com; or Alliance Program Director Charlotte Ranz at cran@mindspring.com.

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

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.

**For additional information, go to
www.ncallianceforhealth.org
for talking points and other resources.**

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