



Legislative Update

June 27, 2008

Please read and forward to your colleagues and networks!

Committee & Floor Votes Delayed on Secondhand Smoke Bills, but Votes Expected Next Week; Continue to Contact House Members

SB 1669-Community Colleges Tobacco-Free:

This week the full House was expected to approve SB 1669-Community Colleges Tobacco-Free. However, consideration of this bill was delayed twice on the House floor. If you haven't already, please let your legislators know you support the community colleges bill and urge House members to approve the bill before session ends in the next two to three weeks! SB 1669 clarifies the authority of the governing boards of local community colleges to make their community college campuses tobacco-free.

SB 1681-State and Local Motor Fleets Smoke-Free:

As expected, SB 1681- State and Local Motorfleets Smoke-Free was heard briefly by the House Judiciary 1 Committee chaired by Rep. Deborah Ross (D- Wake). House Minority Leader Skip Stam (R-Wake) had enough time to propose an amendment to allow smoking in permanently assigned vehicles. The NC Alliance for Health *opposes* this amendment. There was not enough time to debate the amendment or consider a final vote before the committee adjourned. Judiciary 1 Committee Chair Rep. Deborah Ross plans to hear the bill in full at the next meeting of the House Judiciary 1 Committee on Tuesday, July 1 at 10 a.m. SB 1681 would require 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 – Smoke-Free State and Local Building Grounds:

This bill has not yet been calendared to be heard by the House Judiciary 1 Committee. We are watching to see what happens with this bill and will keep Alliance members posted. This bill would protect state workers and the public by prohibiting smoking 25 ft from the entrances, windows and ventilation systems of state government buildings, and grants local governments authority to establish a smoke-free perimeter of up to 50 ft around local government buildings.

**Please Contact your House Member to Urge Support for the
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 secondhand smoke bills are posted on the Alliance's website at <http://www.ncallianceforhealth.org/tobacco.html>.

MESSAGE: URGE your House member to VOTE YES on SB 1669-Community Colleges Tobacco-Free and SB 1681-State and Local Motor Fleets.

These bills will protect 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 offer its employees a safe and risk-free work place. 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 encourage House members to approve SB 1669 – Community Colleges Tobacco-Free and SB 1681 – State and Local Motor Fleets Smoke-Free.

Please email ALL House members to support SB 1669 – Community Colleges Tobacco-Free.

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.

Please email House Judiciary 1 Committee members to urge approval of SB 1681 and to *oppose Rep. Skip Stam's proposed amendment.*

To Contact House Judiciary 1 Committee Members:

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

Chairman

[Rep. Deborah Ross](#) (Wake)

Vice Chairman	Rep. Melanie Goodwin (Richmond)
Vice Chairman	Rep. Skip Stam (Wake)
Vice Chairman	Rep. Bonner Stiller (Brunswick)
Members	Rep. Martha Alexander (Mecklenburg)
	Rep. John Blust (Guilford)
	Rep. Angela Bryant (Nash)
	Rep. Debbie Clary (Cleveland)
	Rep. Larry Hall (Durham)
	Rep. Pricey Harrison (Guilford)
	Rep. George Holmes (Yadkin)
	Rep. Verla Insko (Orange)
	Rep. Grier Martin (Wake)
	Rep. Annie Mobley (Hertford)
	Rep. Roger West (Cherokee)

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 work environment. [State and local employees deserve to breathe smoke-free air working in the office and in government-controlled cars.](#)

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.

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