



Legislative Update

February 4, 2009

Please read and forward to your colleagues and networks!

Rep. Holliman Introduces HB 2 to Make All Worksites and Public Places Smoke-free

As expected, House Majority Leader Rep. Hugh Holliman (D-Davidson) wasted no time in introducing [HB 2](#), legislation to make all indoor worksites and public places smoke-free in North Carolina. This comprehensive smoke-free air bill, if passed as proposed, would give North Carolina the strongest smoke-free air law in the southeast.

Passing a statewide, comprehensive smoke-free bill that also restores local control is one of the highest priorities of the NC Alliance for Health in 2009. Everyone deserves the right to breathe smoke-free air, especially in the workplace.

Every year secondhand smoke causes an estimated 35,000 deaths nationwide. In North Carolina, more than 1,600 non-smokers die each year from other people's smoke. Twenty-four states and Washington, D.C., as well as hundreds of cities across the country, have passed legislation to protect their residents from the toxins in secondhand smoke. It's time for North Carolina to join these communities by putting public health first. Click here to view [a copy of HB 2](#).

Summary of HB 2:

HB 2 will prohibit smoking in all indoor worksites and public places EXCEPT in the following locations:

- Private residences (except those used to provide child care or adult care services).
- Tobacco shops as long as the smoke does not migrate into other enclosed areas where smoking is prohibited (such as a mall). Tobacco shops that open after July 1, 2009 may only allow smoking if they are in a free-standing structure occupied solely by the tobacco shop.
- Tobacco manufacturing facilities.
- Up to 20% of designated guest rooms in lodging facilities.

HB 2 also restores authority to local governments to regulate smoking so that local communities may do more to regulate secondhand smoke if they chose.

The bill would become effective January 2, 2010.

Tell Your House Member to Support HB 2!

Contact your representative and urge him or her to support HB 2 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. Remind your legislator that approximately 80% of North Carolinians are non-smokers and that nearly 86% of North Carolinians agree or strongly agree that employees in North Carolina should be able to work in a smoke-free environment (Elon University poll, 2006).

[Talking points about the dangers of secondhand smoke](#) are available on the NC Alliance for Health website: www.ncallianceforhealth.org.

How to Contact Your Legislators

To email your representative, go to www.smokefreenc.org to send a message in support of a smoke-free North Carolina with the click of a button.

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

If you are not sure of the name of your Representative, check the General Assembly's website at [My Representative](#).

On this page, you may look up your representative by District Number, by County, or by Zip Code +4. (Use the Postal Service's [ZIP Code Look-Up Engine](#) to find your zip code +4).

What **MORE** can you do to promote the smoke-free issue?

- 1) **Thank Rep. Hugh Holliman (D-Davidson) and other bill sponsors for introducing HB 2** to make NC worksites and public places smoke-free. Contact Rep. Holliman at 919-715-0873; Hughh@ncleg.net. Other [bill sponsors](#) can be reached by double clicking on the name of the legislator you wish to email at this link on the General Assembly website.
- 2) **Sign the [Alliance Resolution Supporting a Smoke-free NC](#)**. Have your organization, its board members, staff and volunteers sign the Alliance's [resolution](#) to demonstrate your support for making NC's worksites and public places smoke-free. The website is now capable of taking signatures directly on-line. Also available on the Alliance website are fact sheets, talking points and other resources on secondhand smoke and the cigarette tax.
- 3) **Tell others about www.smokefreenc.org**. Ask friends, family and colleagues to show their support for a smoke-free North Carolina by visiting the Alliance's website. Simply point and click to send a message to your legislators.

Up-Coming Events at the General Assembly

SAVE THE DATE:

March 24: NC Alliance for Health Smoke-free Day at the General Assembly
More information to come or contact Alliance Executive Director Lisa Familo
at lisa.familo@ncallianceforhealth.org

Alliance Built Environments Committee Meeting Announcement

The Alliance Built Environments Committee will meet **Friday, February 13 from 11:30 a.m. – 1 p.m. at the offices of the American Heart Association (AHA).** The committee will continue discussing the Alliance Built Environments mission and goals and promotion of the intermodal tax proposal during the 2009 legislative session. Additional questions about this committee should be forwarded to committee chair Sig Hutchinson at Sig@SigHutchinson.com.

For additional information about the North Carolina Alliance for Health, please contact Alliance Executive Director Lisa Familo at lisa.familo@ncallianceforhealth.org; or Alliance Policy Director Pam Seamans at pamseamans@nc.rr.com.

Or, go to www.ncallianceforhealth.org
for talking points and other resources.

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

To unsubscribe, please email Lisa Familo at lisa.familo@ncallianceforhealth.org.