



**Legislative Update &
Action Alert**

March 8, 2007

Please read and forward to your colleagues and networks!

**House Approves HB 24;
HB 259 Expected to Come Before Judiciary 1
Committee as early as Next Week!**

On Wednesday, March 7, the NC House gave final approval to HB 24, sponsored by Rep. Jennifer Weiss (D-Wake) and Rick Glazier (D-Cumberland), to prohibit smoking in state government buildings. The final vote was 107 to 4.

As approved by the House, HB 24 will:

- 1) prohibit smoking in buildings owned, leased or occupied by state government;
- 2) provide local option for local governments to enact regulations to prohibit smoking in buildings owned, leased or occupied by local government, and any place on a public transportation vehicle owned, leased or occupied by local government and used by the public;
- 3) provide any local airport authority the option to prohibit smoking in their facilities.

During the House floor debate, Rep. Glazier introduced a technical amendment to make sure that some of the current authority to regulate smoking is maintained (such as regulating smoking within 50ft of buildings housing local health departments and departments of social services). The amendment was approved 116 to 0. HB 24 will now move to the Senate where it is expected to be referred to the Senate Health Care Committee. Stay tuned for more information on when the Senate Health Care Committee might take up HB 24. It could be as early as next week!

To view HB 24 as approved by the House, go to:

<http://www.ncga.state.nc.us/Sessions/2007/Bills/House/HTML/H24v3.html>

Please take a moment to thank Rep. Jennifer Weiss (Jenniferw@ncleg.net; 919-715-3010) and Rep. Rick Glazier (Rickg@ncleg.net; 919-733-5601) for their leadership in guiding HB 24 to passage in the House.

**HB 259 Expected to Come Before Judiciary 1
Committee as early as Next Week!**

House Majority Leader Hugh Holliman's bill (HB 259) to ban smoking in all worksites and public places is expected to begin moving through the NC House as early as next week. **HB 259 could be considered by the House Judiciary 1 Committee as early as Thursday, March 15.**

In its current form, HB 259 will ban smoking in all worksites and public places EXCEPT in the following locations:

- A private residence, except when being used commercially to provide child care or adult care services;
- A retail or wholesale tobacco shop;
- A tobacco manufacturing or processing facility;
- A designated smoking guest room in a lodging establishment. No greater than twenty percent (20%) of a lodging establishment's guest rooms may be designated smoking guest rooms;
- A private club, which is defined as an organization that maintains selective members, is operated by the membership, does not provide food or lodging for pay to anyone who is not a member or a member's guest, and is incorporated as a nonprofit corporation;
- Bars that only allow entry to persons who are 21 years of age or older and receive no greater than twenty percent (20%) of total annual revenues from the sale of food; and
- A place of employment used for medical or scientific research to the extent that smoking is an integral part of the research.

To view HB 259, go to:

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

Please Contact Members of the House Judiciary 1 Committee and Urge Support of HB 259, to Eliminate Smoking in Worksites and Public Places

Why does North Carolina need to eliminate secondhand smoke from worksites and public places? Because:

Secondhand Smoke Kills. According to the US Surgeon General, there is **NO** safe level of exposure to secondhand smoke.

North Carolina Citizens Support Smoke-Free Policies. According to an Elon poll (Sept. 06):

- 86% of North Carolinians agree or strongly agree that employees in North Carolina should be able to work in a smoke-free environment;
- 64.7% of respondents support or strongly support a law in NC that would not allow smoking in restaurants & bars;
- 79.2% agree that restaurant employees in NC should be able to work in a smoke-free environment.

Smoke-Free Policies are Good for Business.

- No rigorous, scientifically conducted study has found negative economic impact from smoke-free policies; some, in fact, have found an increase in restaurant and bar sales following local or statewide restrictions on smoking in public places.

- The EPA estimates that smoke-free restaurants can expect to save about \$190 per 1,000 square feet each year in lower cleaning and maintenance costs.

Smoke-Free Policies Save Health Care Costs.

- Most smokers want to quit and smoke-free policies help smokers quit smoking.
- Smoking costs in North Carolina are \$2.46 billion in direct medical costs. Smoking-attributable health care costs to the Medicaid Program are \$769 million annually.

All NC Workers Deserve a Safe, Smoke-Free Workplace.

- HB 259 will protect a majority of NC workers from the harmful effects of secondhand smoke.
- NC has been a leader in all types of workplace safety initiatives and policies—it only makes sense that we extend these policies to include protection from the known dangers of secondhand smoke.

For a full set of talking points about the dangers of secondhand smoke and HB 259 (along with source citations), go to the Alliance website:

<http://www.ncallianceforhealth.org/pdfs/HB259TalkingPoints3-07.pdf>

How to Contact Members of the House Judiciary 1 Committee:

(All phone numbers at 919 area code)

Representative	Party	Email	Phone	Counties	HB 259 Co-sponsor
Martha B. Alexander	D	Marthaa@ncleg.net	733-5807	Mecklenburg	
John M. Blust	R	Johnbl@ncleg.net	733-5806	Guilford	
Angela R. Bryant	D	Angelab@ncleg.net	733-5878	Halifax, Nash	Co-sponsor
Debbie A. Clary	R	Debbiec@ncleg.net	715-2002	Cleveland, Gaston	
Melanie Wade Goodwin (Vice-Chair)	D	Melanieg@ncleg.net	733-5823	Montgomery, Richmond	
Larry D. Hall	D	Larryh@ncleg.net	733-5872	Durham	Primary Sponsor
Pricey Harrison	D	Priceyh@ncleg.net	733-5771	Guilford	
George M. Holmes	R	Georgeho@ncleg.net	733-5654	Iredell, Surry, Yadkin	
Verla Insko	D	Verlai@ncleg.net	733-7208	Orange	Co-sponsor
Grier Martin	D	Grierm@ncleg.net	733-5758	Wake	
Annie W. Mobley	D	Anniem@ncleg.net	733-2962	Bertie, Gates, Hertford, Perquimans	
Deborah K. Ross (Chair)	D	Deborahr@ncleg.net	733-5773	Wake	
Paul Stam (Vice-Chair)	R	Pauls@ncleg.net	733-5780	Wake	

Bonner L. Stiller (Vice-Chair)	R	Bonnors@ncleg.net	733-5974	Brunswick Cherokee, Clay, Graham, Macon	
Roger West	R	Rogerw@ncleg.net	733-5859		

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

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!

For additional information about secondhand smoke issues or NC's cigarette tax, access the Alliance website at www.ncallianceforhealth.org for talking points and other resources.

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