



Legislative Update & Action Request

May 3, 2007

Please read and forward to your colleagues and networks!

HB 259 Fails to Pass NC House

After being scheduled for floor debate and postponed several times, HB 259 finally came to the House floor on Wednesday, May 2. After nearly two hours of dramatic debate skillfully lead by House Majority Leader and bill sponsor Rep. Hugh Holliman (D-Davidson), HB 259 ultimately failed by a vote of 55 – 61.

HB 259 would have made restaurants, most bars and all state government buildings smoke-free. In addition, the bill would have restored local control so that local governments could regulate smoking in worksites and public places within their communities. This bill would have protected a large majority of NC workers from the dangers of secondhand smoke. The US Surgeon General has said there is NO safe level of exposure to secondhand smoke.

Although the outcome of this vote is very disappointing, there remain other avenues in which all or portions of HB 259 may still be enacted. Because the House leadership has played a large role in the movement of HB 259, they will also play a major role in determining any next steps. In addition, we still have HB 24 (makes smoke-free all state government buildings) which has already passed the House and awaits action in the Senate Commerce Committee. There are also numerous other smaller bills that regulate smoking or restore local control which we are hopeful will be passed by one house or the other by the May 17 crossover deadline (the date by which all bills must be approved by one house or the other if they are to survive for further consideration during the legislative biennium). As always, we will keep you posted on next steps.

Please Call or Email Your House Member About Their Vote ASAP

(vote tallies and contact info below)

It is critical that we thank those who voted in favor of HB 259 and express our disappointment over the outcome of the vote to those who did not support HB 259. We know that with nearly 65% of NC residents supporting a statewide law to prohibit smoking in public places (including public buildings, offices, restaurants and bars), there will be significant disappointment over the defeat of HB 259. House members must hear and understand this disappointment. By thanking or expressing disappointment for their vote, legislators will know we are watching their actions on these issues and will keep this in mind when other bills to restrict smoking come up again this session.

Message of Thanks:

Please thank those who voted in favor of HB 259 for the courageous leadership they demonstrated by voting to protect NC workers and patrons from the dangers of secondhand smoke and restore local control.

Message of Disappointment:

Please politely express your disappointment over the failure of HB 259 to pass the House. The defeat of HB 259 represents a missed opportunity to protect thousands of NC workers and patrons from the dangers of secondhand smoke and will keep local governments from gaining the authority they need to adopt smoking restrictions.

To view HB 259, go to: <http://www.ncga.state.nc.us/Sessions/2007/Bills/House/HTML/H259v3.html>

For a full set of talking points about HB 259 and the dangers of secondhand smoke, go to the Alliance website:

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

To contact your House member:

- 1) double click on your House member's name below to link to their direct phone & email; OR,
- 2) call 919-733-411 and ask for your legislator by name to be transferred.

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

Members voting NO on HB 259:

(double click on the member's name to link to their email address and phone)

<u>Representative</u>	<u>County</u>
Cary D. Allred	Alamance
David Almond	Montgomery, Stanly, Union
Marilyn Avila	Wake
Curtis Blackwood	Union
John M. Blust	Guilford
Joe Boylan	Moore
R. Van Braxton	Greene, Lenoir, Wayne
William D. Brisson	Bladen, Cumberland
Larry R. Brown	Davidson, Forsyth
Harold J. Brubaker	Randolph
Walter G. Church, Sr.	Burke
Debbie A. Clary	Cleveland, Gaston
George G. Cleveland	Onslow
Lorene Coates	Rowan
Nelson Cole	Rockingham
James W. Crawford, Jr.	Granville, Vance
Bill Daughtride	Nash
N. Leo Daughtry	Johnston
Jerry C. Dockham	Davidson
Beverly M. Earle	Mecklenburg
Dale R. Folwell	Forsyth
Phillip Frye	Avery, Caldwell, Mitchell, Yancey

Mitch Gillespie	Burke, McDowell
Bruce Goforth	Buncombe
W. Robert Grady	Onslow
Jim Gulley	Mecklenburg
Dewey L. Hill	Brunswick, Columbus
Mark K. Hilton	Catawba
Bryan R. Holloway	Rockingham, Stokes
George M. Holmes	Iredell, Surry, Yadkin
Linda P. Johnson	Cabarrus
Earl Jones	Guilford
Carolyn K. Justus	Henderson
Ric Killian	Mecklenburg
Joe L. Kiser	Lincoln
James H. Langdon, Jr.	Johnston, Sampson
David R. Lewis	Harnett
Mary E. McAllister	Cumberland
Daniel F. McComas	New Hanover
Pat McElraft	Carteret, Jones
Wm. C. "Bill" McGee	Forsyth
Marian N. McLawhorn	Pitt
Henry M. Michaux, Jr.	Durham
Tim Moore	Cleveland
Earline W. Parmon	Forsyth
Louis M. Pate, Jr.	Wayne
Karen B. Ray	Iredell
Ruth Samuelson	Mecklenburg
Mitchell S. Setzer	Catawba, Iredell
Timothy L. Spear	Chowan, Dare, Hyde, Washington
Paul Stam	Wake
Edgar V. Starnes	Caldwell
Charles C. Thomas	Buncombe
Thom Tillis	Mecklenburg
Joe P. Tolson	Edgecombe, Wilson
Trudi Walend	Henderson, Polk, Transylvania
R. Tracy Walker	Wilkes
Edith D. Warren	Martin, Pitt
Roger West	Cherokee, Clay, Graham, Macon
Laura I. Wiley	Guilford

Members Voting YES on HB 259:

(double click on the member's name to link to their email address and phone)

<u>Representative</u>	<u>County</u>
Alma Adams	Guilford
Martha B. Alexander	Mecklenburg
Lucy T. Allen	Franklin, Halifax, Nash
Jeff Barnhart	Cabarrus
Larry M. Bell	Sampson, Wayne
Dan Blue	Wake
Alice L. Bordsen	Alamance
Angela R. Bryant	Halifax, Nash
Becky Carney	Mecklenburg
Linda Coleman	Wake
Tricia Ann Cotham	Mecklenburg
W. Pete Cunningham	Mecklenburg
William A. Current, Sr.	Gaston
Margaret Highsmith Dickson	Cumberland
Nelson Dollar	Wake
Bob England, M.D.	Cleveland, Rutherford
Bill Faison	Caswell, Orange
Jean Farmer-Butterfield	Edgecombe, Wilson
Susan C. Fisher	Buncombe
Pryor Gibson	Anson, Union
Rick Glazier	Cumberland
Melanie Wade Goodwin	Montgomery, Richmond
Joe Hackney (Speaker did not vote)	Chatham, Moore, Orange
R. Phillip Haire	Haywood, Jackson, Macon, Swain
Larry D. Hall	Durham
Jim Harrell, III	Alleghany, Surry
Pricey Harrison	Guilford
Hugh Holliman	Davidson
Julia C. Howard	Davie, Iredell
Pat B. Hurley	Randolph
Verla Insko	Orange
Maggie Jeffus	Guilford
Carolyn H. Justice	New Hanover, Pender
Jimmy L. Love, Sr.	Harnett, Lee

Marvin W. Lucas	Cumberland
Grier Martin	Wake
Annie W. Mobley	Bertie, Gates, Hertford, Perquimans
Bill Owens	Camden, Currituck, Pasquotank, Tyrrell
Garland E. Pierce	Hoke, Robeson, Scotland
Ray Rapp	Haywood, Madison, Yancey
Deborah K. Ross	Wake
Drew Saunders	Mecklenburg
Fred F. Steen, II	Rowan
Bonner L. Stiller	Brunswick
Ronnie Sutton	Robeson
Cullie M. Tarleton	Ashe, Watauga
Russell E. Tucker	Duplin, Onslow
Alice Graham Underhill	Craven, Pamlico
William L. Wainwright	Craven, Lenoir
Ray Warren	Alexander, Catawba
Jennifer Weiss	Wake
W. A. (Winkie) Wilkins	Durham, Person
Larry Womble	Forsyth
Michael H. Wray	Northampton, Vance, Warren
Thomas E. Wright	New Hanover, Pender
Douglas Y. Yongue	Hoke, Robeson, Scotland

Members with Excused Absences:

- Rep. Ty Harrell (Wake)
- Rep. Paul Luebke (Durham)
- Rep. Wil Neumann (Gaston)

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.

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