



## Legislative Update & ACTION ALERT!

June 14, 2007

*Please read and forward to your colleagues and networks!*

### **HB 24 to be Heard by Senate Cmte Tuesday**

HB 24, sponsored by Reps. Jennifer Weiss (D-Wake) and Rick Glazier (D-Cumberland), is expected to be heard by the Senate Commerce, Small business, & Entrepreneurship Committee **on Tuesday, June 19 at 11:00 a.m. in Room 1027 of the Legislative Building.** You may recall that HB 24 has already been taken up by this Senate committee once before but no vote was taken. HB 24 will make all state government buildings smoke-free and provide an option to local governments to make local government buildings and transportation systems smoke-free. HB 24 was overwhelmingly approved by the House on March 7 by a vote of 107 to 4.

**Please contact Senators on this committee and remind them of the important public health impact of this legislation.**

#### **Senate Commerce, Small Business, & Entrepreneurship Committee members:**

(double click on the name of your senator to retrieve their phone number or email address)

Chairman	<a href="#">Sen. R. C. Soles, Jr.</a> – Brunswick, Pender, Columbus
Vice Chairman	<a href="#">Sen. David W. Hoyle</a> – Gaston
Vice Chairman	<a href="#">Sen. Tony Rand</a> – Bladen & Cumberland
Members	<a href="#">Sen. Tom Apodaca</a> – Buncombe, Henderson, Polk
	<a href="#">Sen. Doug Berger</a> – Franklin, Granville, Vance, Warren
	<a href="#">Sen. Philip E. Berger</a> – Guilford, Rockingham
	<a href="#">Sen. Harris Blake</a> – Harnett, Moore
	<a href="#">Sen. Julia Boseman</a> – New Hanover
	<a href="#">Sen. Walter H. Dalton</a> – Cleveland, Rutherford
	<a href="#">Sen. Katie G. Dorsett</a> – Guilford
	<a href="#">Sen. Tony Foriest</a> – Alamance, Caswell
	<a href="#">Sen. James Forrester</a> – Gaston, Iredell, Lincoln
	<a href="#">Sen. Linda Garrou</a> , - Forsyth
	<a href="#">Sen. W. Edward (Eddie) Goodall</a> – Mecklenburg, Union
	<a href="#">Sen. Steve Goss</a> – Alexander, Ashe, Watauga, Wilkes
	<a href="#">Sen. Malcolm Graham</a> – Mecklenburg
	<a href="#">Sen. Kay R. Hagan</a> – Guilford
	<a href="#">Sen. Neal Hunt</a> – Wake
	<a href="#">Sen. Jim Jacumin</a> – Burke, Caldwell
	<a href="#">Sen. John H. Kerr III</a> , - Greene, Pitt, Wayne
	<a href="#">Sen. Vernon Malone</a> – Wake
	<a href="#">Sen. Floyd B. McKissick, Jr.</a> , - Durham
	<a href="#">Sen. Martin L. Nesbitt, Jr.</a> – Buncombe
	<a href="#">Sen. Robert Pittenger</a> - Mecklenburg
	<a href="#">Sen. William R. Purcell</a> – Anson, Richmond, Scotland, Stanly

## HB 24 Talking Points:

**Making all state government buildings smoke-free is a logical next step after making the General Assembly buildings smoke-free. It is time to protect *all* state workers.**

### **Secondhand Smoke is Harmful to Health**

- According to the US Surgeon General, *there is NO safe level of exposure to secondhand smoke.*
- Secondhand smoke has been shown to increase nonsmokers' risk of heart disease, stroke, and cancer.<sup>1 2</sup>  
[i]
- *As little as thirty minutes of exposure can trigger a heart attack* in someone with heart disease or risk factors for heart disease.<sup>2</sup> The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) warns, "...all patients at risk of coronary heart disease or with known coronary artery disease should be advised to avoid all indoor environments that permit smoking."<sup>[ii]</sup>

### **Local Communities Deserve the Right to Decide How to Regulate Smoking in Their Communities**

- Since 1993, local communities in North Carolina have been restricted from passing their own ordinances and rules to protect their communities from exposure to secondhand smoke.
- Local elected officials understand best the unique characteristics and needs of their communities and should have the flexibility to decide whether their communities need additional regulation of smoking.
- HB 24 will give local governments the authority to adopt and enforce smoking policies in local government buildings and local transportation systems.

### **The Public Supports Smoke-Free Policies for ALL Workers**

- According to a September 2006 Elon poll, 86 percent of respondents said that they agree or strongly agree that employees in North Carolina should be able to work in a smoke-free environment.

For a full set of talking points about the dangers of secondhand smoke and HB 24 (along with source citations), go to the Alliance website at: <http://www.ncallianceforhealth.org/pdfs/HB24TalkingPoints3-07.pdf>

## **Smoke-Free UNC Bill Passes House**

On Thursday, June 14 the House passed SB 862 by a vote of 104 to 3. Sponsored by Senator Purcell (D-Scotland) and run by Rep. Hugh Holliman (D-Davidson) on the House side, SB 862 permits the buildings, grounds and facilities of the institutions of the University of North Carolina, as well as the UNC Health Care System and the medical buildings at East Carolina University, to be designated smoke-free by the appropriate governing body. The bill allows smoking to be banned within 100 feet of UNC buildings.

The House Health Committee approved a committee substitute of this bill earlier in the week that included some minor technical changes to the version approved by the Senate. Because the House and Senate versions of this bill are not identical, the bill will be sent back to the Senate for concurrence. If the Senate does not concur, a conference committee will be created to resolve the differences between the two versions of the bill.

To view a copy of the House version of this bill, go to:

<http://www.ncga.state.nc.us/Sessions/2007/Bills/Senate/HTML/S862v3.html>

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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.

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**For additional information about secondhand smoke issues or NC's cigarette tax,  
access the Alliance website at [www.ncallianceforhealth.org](http://www.ncallianceforhealth.org)  
for talking points and other resources.**

Call 919-463-8328  
or e-mail [ncalliance@heart.org](mailto:ncalliance@heart.org) for more information

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<sup>[1]</sup> California Air Resources Board, Sacramento, CA. January 25, 2006. <http://www.arb.ca.gov/toxics/ets/factsheetets.pdf>

<sup>[2]</sup> Pechacek, TF and Babb, S *How acute and reversible are the cardiovascular risks of secondhand smoke?* BMJ. 2004 Apr 24;328(7446):980-3.