

House Bill 259 Protects Workers and the Public From the Dangers of Secondhand Smoke

*North Carolina state law regulates and licenses occupations, businesses, trades, professions, and forms of amusement or entertainment and **prohibits those that may be inimical to the public health, welfare, or safety.** NC G.S. 160A-21*

North Carolina state law . . .	In order to . . .
Requires State agencies to establish a written program for workplace safety and health ¹	Ensure the safety of North Carolina state employees in the workplace.
Regulates food safety, such as temperature requirements, building codes, dress-code of employees.	Protect the public and workers from exposure to food-born illness.
Defines the qualifications of sanitarians ²	Ensure the quality and consistency of restaurant inspections.
Requires radiation training for tanning bed operators ³	Reduce radiation exposure and cross-contamination between uses of tanning beds.
Requires pharmacies to monitor and evaluate quality of services provided to customers ⁴	Enhance the quality of health care and reduce medication errors.
Regulates the condition and specifications of roller skating rinks ⁵	Ensure the safety of recreational facilities.
Regulates garbage disposal, pest management and linen maintenance in bed and breakfast inns. ⁶	Reduce public exposure to poorly maintained and unsanitary conditions.
Requires tattoo parlors to sanitize equipment and prohibits tattoo parlors from coming in contact with blood or providing services to visibly ill customers. ⁷	Protect the public and employees from exposure to blood-born pathogens
Regulates the use of paints, movie-screen materials, and sprinkler systems. ⁸	Protect the public and workers from risk and injury due to fire.

It is time to protect working people from the health risk of secondhand smoke...

- According to the US Surgeon General, there is **NO** safe level of exposure to secondhand smoke.⁹
- Every year secondhand smoke causes the deaths of 35,000 Americans.² In North Carolina, 1,220 to 2,180 adults, children and babies die each year from others' smoking.¹⁰
- As little as thirty minutes of exposure can trigger a heart attack in someone with heart disease or risk factors for heart disease.¹¹
- The 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*".¹²

**Working People Deserve Safe and Healthy
Workplaces—Eliminate Secondhand Smoke!!**

References:

- ¹ §143-580 State Employees Workplace Requirements Program for Safety and Health. Downloaded March 1, 2007 at: <http://www.osp.state.nc.us/manuals/manual99/wkplcreq.pdf>
- ² § 90A-53. Qualifications and examination for registration as a sanitarian. Downloaded March 1, 2007 at: http://www.ncleg.net/enactedlegislation/statutes/html/bysection/chapter_90a/gs_90a-53.html
- ³ §735 An Act Pertaining to Training Requirements for Tanning Equipment Operators. Downloaded March 1, 2007 at: <http://www.ncga.state.nc.us/Sessions/1991/Bills/Senate/HTML/S758v3.html>
- ⁴ §2005-427 An Act Establishing the Pharmacy Quality Assurance Protection Act to Facilitate the Continuous Review of the Practice of Pharmacy. Downloaded March 1, 2007 at: <http://www.ncga.state.nc.us/Sessions/2005/Bills/House/HTML/H1493v6.html>
- ⁵ §99 Article 2 Roller Skating Rink Safety and Liability. Downloaded March 1, 2007 at: http://www.ncga.state.nc.us/enactedlegislation/statutes/html/byarticle/chapter_99e/article_2.html
- ⁶ NC Department of Environmental Health 15A NCAC 18A.3001 Bed and Breakfast Inns Downloaded March 1, 2007 at: <http://www.deh.enr.state.nc.us/ehs/images/rules/t15a-18a.30.pdf>
- ⁷ NC Department of Environmental Health 15A NCAC 18A.3001 Tattooing. Downloaded March 1, 2007 at: <http://www.deh.enr.state.nc.us/ehs/images/rules/t15a-18a.32.pdf>
- ⁸ North Carolina Department of Insurance. Downloaded March 1, 2008 at http://www.ncdoi.com/OSFM/Engineering/BCC/Documents/2006_NCBuildingCode_amendments/approved/2006NCFireCode_amendments.pdf
- ⁹ U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. *The Health Consequences of Involuntary Exposure to Tobacco Smoke: A Report of the Surgeon General—Executive Summary*. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Coordinating Center for Health Promotion, National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, Office on Smoking and Health, 2006.
- ¹⁰ Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids "The Toll of Tobacco in North Carolina" Fact Sheet, downloaded March 1, 2007 at <http://www.tobaccofreekids.org/reports/settlements/toll.php?StateID=NC>
- ¹¹ Sargent, RO, Shepard, RM and Glantz, SA Reduced incidence of admissions for myocardial infarction associated with public smoking ban: before and after study. *BMJ* 2004 328: 977-980.
- ¹² Pechacek, TF and Babb, S *How acute and reversible are the cardiovascular risks of secondhand smoke?* *BMJ*. 2004 Apr 24;328(7446):980-3.