

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2007**

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**HOUSE BILL 24*
Committee Substitute Favorable 3/5/07**

Short Title: Smoking in Govt. Buildings/Prohibition.

(Public)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

January 29, 2007

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1
2 AN ACT TO PROTECT THE PUBLIC FROM THE HEALTH RISKS OF
3 SECONDHAND SMOKE BY PROHIBITING SMOKING IN BUILDINGS
4 OWNED, LEASED, OR OCCUPIED BY STATE GOVERNMENT; AND TO
5 AUTHORIZE LOCAL GOVERNMENTS TO REGULATE SMOKING IN
6 BUILDINGS AND TRANSPORTATION VEHICLES OWNED, LEASED, OR
7 OCCUPIED BY LOCAL GOVERNMENT AS RECOMMENDED BY THE
8 JUSTUS-WARREN HEART DISEASE AND STROKE PREVENTION TASK
9 FORCE.

10 Whereas, secondhand smoke has been proven to cause cancer, heart disease,
11 and asthma in both smokers and nonsmokers; and

12 Whereas, the 2006 Surgeon General's Report on the health consequences of
13 involuntary exposure to tobacco smoke states that the scientific evidence indicates that
14 there is no risk-free level of exposure to secondhand smoke; and

15 Whereas, the 2006 Surgeon General's Report documents that separating
16 smokers from nonsmokers, cleaning the air, and ventilating smoke cannot eliminate
17 exposure to secondhand smoke; and

18 Whereas, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) advises that
19 all individuals with coronary heart disease or known risk factors for coronary heart
20 disease should avoid all indoor environments that permit smoking; and

21 Whereas, exposure to secondhand smoke is costly, costing the nation \$10
22 billion per year, \$5 billion in direct medical care costs, and \$5 billion in indirect costs
23 according to the 2005 Society of Actuaries; and

24 Whereas, the vast majority of North Carolinians (77.4% of adults) do not
25 smoke; and

26 Whereas, the 2006 Surgeon General's Report documents that eliminating
27 indoor smoking fully protects nonsmokers from exposure to secondhand smoke; and

28 Whereas, the North Carolina's General Assembly buildings are smoke-free;
29 Now, therefore,

1 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

2 **SECTION 1.** Effective January 1, 2008, Chapter 130A of the General
3 Statutes is amended by adding the following new Article to read:

4 "Article 23.

5 "Smoking in Public Places.

6 "Part 1. Smoking in State Government Buildings.

7 **"§ 130A-491. Legislative intent.**

8 It is the intent of the General Assembly to protect the health of individuals working
9 in or visiting State government buildings from the risks related to secondhand smoke.

10 **"§ 130A-492. Definitions.**

11 The following definitions apply in this Article:

12 (1) "Smoking". – The use or possession of a lighted cigarette, lighted
13 cigar, lighted pipe, or any other lighted tobacco product.

14 (2) "State government". – The political unit for the State of North
15 Carolina; including all agencies of the executive, judicial, and
16 legislative branches of government.

17 (3) "State government building". – A building owned, leased as lessor, or
18 the area leased as lessee and occupied by State government.

19 **"§ 130A-493. Smoking in State government buildings prohibited.**

20 (a) Notwithstanding Article 64 of Chapter 143 of the General Statutes pertaining
21 to State-controlled buildings, smoking is prohibited inside State government buildings
22 as provided in this section.

23 (b) Smoking is permitted inside State government buildings that are used for
24 medical or scientific research to the extent that smoking is an integral part of the
25 research. Smoking permitted under this subsection shall be confined to the area where
26 the research is being conducted.

27 (c) The individual in charge of the State government building or the individual's
28 designee shall post signs in conspicuous areas of the building. The signs shall state that
29 "smoking is prohibited" and may include the international "No Smoking" symbol,
30 which consists of a pictorial representation of a burning cigarette enclosed in a red circle
31 with a red bar across it.

32 (d) Notwithstanding G.S. 130A-25, a violation of Article 23 of this Chapter shall
33 not be punishable as a criminal violation.

34 **"§ 130A-494. Rules.**

35 The Commission shall adopt rules to implement this Part."

36 **SECTION 2.** Nothing in this act shall be construed to impair or interfere
37 with efforts by local school boards to regulate or prohibit smoking in public schools, in
38 school facilities, on school campuses, at school-related or school-sponsored events, in or
39 on other school property, or at day care centers under their jurisdiction.

40 **SECTION 3.** Effective January 1, 2008, Article 23 of Chapter 130A of the
41 General Statutes, as enacted in Section 1 of this act, is amended by adding the following
42 new Part to read:

43 "Part 2. Local Government Regulation of Smoking.

44 **"§ 130A-498. Local governments may restrict smoking in public places.**

1 (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of Article 64 of Chapter 143 of the
2 General Statutes to the contrary, a local government may adopt an ordinance, law, or
3 rule restricting smoking in accordance with subsection (b) of this section.

4 (b) Any local ordinance, law, or rule authorized under this section may restrict
5 smoking only in:

6 (1) Buildings owned, leased as lessor, or the area leased as lessee and
7 occupied by local government; and

8 (2) Any place on a public transportation vehicle owned or leased by local
9 government and used by the public.

10 (c) As used in this Part, "local government" means any local political subdivision
11 of this State, any airport authority, or any authority or body created by any ordinance or
12 rules of any such entity."

13 **SECTION 4.** Effective January 1, 2008, G.S. 143-601 reads as rewritten:

14 **"§ 143-601. Applicability of Article; local government may enact.**

15 (a) This Article shall not supersede nor prohibit the enactment or enforcement of
16 any otherwise valid local law, rule, or ordinance enacted prior to October 15, 1993,
17 regulating the use of tobacco products. However, no local law, rule, or ordinance
18 enacted and placed in operation prior to October 15, 1993, shall be amended to impose a
19 more stringent standard than in effect on the date of ratification of this Article.

20 (b) Any local ordinance, law, or rule that regulates smoking adopted on or after
21 October 15, 1993, shall not contain restrictions regulating smoking which exceed those
22 established in this Article. Any such local ordinance, law, or rule may restrict smoking
23 in accordance with this subsection and pursuant to G.S. 143-597 only in the following
24 facilities that are not owned, leased, or occupied by local government: ~~pursuant to~~
25 ~~G.S. 143-597:~~

26 (1) ~~Buildings owned, leased or occupied by local government.~~

27 (2) A public meeting.

28 (3) The indoor space in an auditorium, arena, or coliseum, or an
29 appurtenant building thereof.

30 (4) A library or museum open to the public.

31 (5) ~~Any place on a public transportation vehicle owned or leased by local~~
32 ~~government and used by the public.~~

33 If any of the facilities listed in this subsection are owned, leased, or occupied by
34 local government, then the local ordinance, law, or rule restricting smoking shall be
35 governed by Article 23 of Chapter 130A of the General Statutes."

36 **SECTION 5.** This act is effective when it becomes law.