

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2007

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HOUSE BILL 24*

Short Title: Smoking in State Govt. Buildings/Prohibition. (Public)

Sponsors: Representatives Weiss, Glazier (Primary Sponsors); Adams, Alexander, Barnhart, Bordsen, Brown, Carney, Coates, Fisher, Hall, Harrison, Holliman, Hurley, Justice, Killian, Luebke, Martin, Tarleton, Underhill, and Wray.

Referred to: Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House.

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.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

23 Whereas, the North Carolina's General Assembly buildings are smoke-free;

24 Now, therefore,

25 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

1 **SECTION 4.** This act is effective when it becomes law and applies to acts
2 committed on and after January 1, 2008.