

Legislative UPDATE

From Senator Dominic Pileggi

SUMMER 2008



Clean Indoor Air Act to Take Effect September 11

Dear Friend:

Beginning on September 11, most restaurants, workplaces and other public places will go smoke-free, protecting millions of Pennsylvanians from dangerous exposure to secondhand smoke.

I actively worked for the passage of the Clean Indoor Air Act, which will ban smoking in the majority of indoor facilities in Pennsylvania, because recent medical studies show the serious harm done to the health of non-smoking patrons and employees in establishments where smoking is permitted. Secondhand smoke is not a mere annoyance; it is a serious health hazard that has been shown to cause disease and premature death in children and non-smoking adults. Experts believe that Pennsylvania's new law will result in an 87% reduction in indoor particulate air pollution.

Thirty-two other states, including our neighboring states of New Jersey, Delaware and Maryland, already have some type of indoor smoking ban in place. Under our new law, most places where people take their families will be smoke-free.

First-time violators could be fined up to \$250, with fines up to \$1,000 for repeat offenders.

The Pennsylvania Health Department is conducting an educational effort for citizens and businesses to maximize compliance and minimize confusion or problems. This mailer provides information on the new Clean Indoor Air Act and why it is an important step forward in improving the health of all Pennsylvanians.

I would like to thank everyone who contacted me about this legislation, and I hope you find this information useful. As always, please feel free to contact me if you have any questions on the Clean Indoor Air Act or any other state-related issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "D. Pileggi". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Senator Dominic Pileggi

Protecting Pennsylvanians from Secondhand Smoke

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), smoking is a public health crisis, killing more than 400,000 Americans each year. The CDC estimates that secondhand smoke is responsible for the deaths from lung cancer of more than 3,000 Americans annually.

Secondhand smoke also has been estimated to cause up to 69,600 deaths per year from heart disease in adult non-smokers.

The U.S. Surgeon General reported that even brief secondhand smoke exposure can cause immediate harm. The report says the only way to protect non-smokers from the dangerous chemicals in secondhand smoke is to eliminate smoking indoors.

Secondhand smoke exposure can cause heart disease and lung cancer in non-smoking adults and is a known cause of sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS), respiratory problems, ear infections, and asthma attacks in infants and children.

Experts say that even the most sophisticated ventilation systems cannot completely eliminate secondhand smoke exposure and that only smoke-free environments afford full protection.

SMOKING IS BANNED IN:

- Restaurants
- Sports and recreational facilities
- Mass transit vehicles and stations
- Educational and health facilities
- 75% of hotel rooms
- 75% of casino floors

SMOKING IS PERMITTED IN:

- Private residences, except those used for day care
- Private vehicles
- Private clubs and cigar bars
- Bars that derive less than 20% of revenue from food sales
- Tobacco businesses, manufacturers and importers

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