

Indiana Media Report – April 22, 2011

Articles that quote members or mention the coalition



Smoke-free air bill should include bars and taverns

<http://www.indystar.com/article/20110403/OPINION01/104030330/Smoke-free-air-bill-should-include-bars-taverns?odyssey=mod|newswell|text|Opinion|s>

By: Danielle Patterson

April 1, 2011

Circulation: 182,933

Kudos to the editorial staff at The Indianapolis Star for its regular and in-depth coverage of the progress of Indiana's smoke-free air legislation. As chair of the Indiana Campaign for Smokefree Air, I would like to clarify our position on HB 1018.

In a March 28 editorial, The Star stated that the Indiana Campaign for Smokefree Air has withdrawn its support.

The ICSA feels strongly that HB 1018, the smoke-free bill that awaits a hearing in the Senate Public Policy Committee, should be passed this year without exemptions for bars and taverns. We have not withdrawn our support for the bill, but we also know it is up to state Sen. Ron Alting, chair of the committee, to allow a vote on the bill with amendments that would put bars and taverns back in.

Unfortunately, there is an on-going spin campaign to paint advocates of smoke-free air as unbending. That campaign is being led by well-funded special-interest groups whose apparent goal is to ensure that no Indiana workers are protected from secondhand smoke, despite a complete lack of evidence, economic or otherwise, that a smoke-free air law would have any negative impact on the state.

The health and wellness of thousands of Hoosier workers throughout the state depend on HB 1018 being passed this year and including bars and taverns in the legislation. We cannot wait another year. Hopefully Sen. Alting will do what is right and hold a vote on Wednesday on a bill with amendments to include bars and taverns.



Include taverns, bars in state smoking ban

<http://www.courierpress.com/news/2011/apr/03/no-headline---032/>

By: Martha Caine

April 3, 2011

Circulation: 52,721

To the editor:

Kudos to the editorial staff of the Courier & Press for its regular coverage of progress of Indiana's smokefree air legislation.

However, as a proud supporter of the Indiana Campaign for Smokefree Air, I would like to clarify our position on current legislation.

The Courier & Press news story published Tuesday stated that smokefree advocates "would rather see it killed than passed with other exemptions, including for bars, private clubs and nursing homes."

The Indiana Campaign for Smokefree Air feels strongly that HB1018 — legislation that is currently awaiting a hearing in the Senate Public Policy Committee that would make workplaces smokefree — could (and should) be passed this year without exemptions for bars and taverns.

It is up to State Sen. Ron Alting, chairman of the committee, to allow a vote on the bill with amendments that would put bars and taverns back in.

The health and wellness of thousands of Hoosier workers throughout the state depend on HB1018 being passed this year.

Hopefully, Sen. Alting will do what is right by his constituents, and the majority of Hoosiers, who support smokefree air, including in bars and taverns.

Martha Caine

Executive Director

Smokefree Communities of Vanderburgh County

General Assembly should clear the air of tobacco smoke

<http://www.southbendtribune.com/news/opinion/sbt-general-assembly-should-clear-the-air-of-tobacco-smoke-20110403,0,3975540.story>

By: Harley McCoige

April 3, 2011

Circulation: 62,482

Indiana residents are waiting for the passage of House Bill 1018, which will create smoke-free public places in our community. By enacting this legislation, our lawmakers will join the majority of the United States in protecting the health of workers.

We know that smoke causes blood vessels to constrict and reduces the amount of oxygen that can be transported into the blood. But the risk isn't just to the smoker. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, exposure to secondhand smoke for just 30 minutes can rapidly increase a person's risk for heart attack. Statistics show that 1,200 Indiana residents die each year from exposure to secondhand smoke. Others suffer from increased risk of heart disease and other illnesses.

The American Heart Association advocates for comprehensive smoke-free workplace laws across the United States. The association believes that smoke-free laws should apply to all workplaces and public environments. There should be no pre-emption for local ordinances, and no exemptions for hardship, opting out, or ventilation. Other exemptions to be avoided include: casinos and gaming organizations, bars, tobacco shops and private clubs. All non-smoking employees should have the right to a smoke-free workplace.

In a study conducted by Indiana University, Bloomington, hospital admissions for heart attacks in nonsmokers dropped 70 percent in Monroe County in the months following a smoking ban in restaurants, retail spaces and workplaces. It is expected that similar benefits will be replicated in other communities as more smoke-free workplace laws are enacted.

The American Heart Association supports further research to determine the impact of comprehensive clean indoor air laws on the incidence of cardiovascular disease, stroke and mortality.

This current version of the bill that passed the House does little to protect the health of workers.

The bill includes exemptions that significantly weaken and undermine the effectiveness of having a statewide law. The bill is now in the hands of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Public Policy & Interstate Cooperation. Sen. Joe Zakas is a member of this committee and with his help, the Senate now has the opportunity to get the job done right.

We ask constituents to join the American Heart Association board of directors in Michiana and tell our lawmakers to strengthen the bill going forward so that it will protect the health of people who work in Indiana.

You can join other Hoosiers by going to www.smokefreein.com or www.yourethecure.org, or go to www.in.gov to contact your local lawmaker.



C.P. man set to rally for statewide smoking legislation

http://www.nwitimes.com/news/local/lake/crown-point/article_f9d2bbe5-39ab-5933-aad8-ce2f232945ab.html

By: Susan Erler

April 4, 2011

A Crown Point man said the cancer-related deaths of several relatives and the effects of smoking he witnessed during a 35-year career in the restaurant business compelled him to speak out.

Roger Jacobs, 57, is one of at least 200 people planning to rally Tuesday at the state Capitol for a statewide ban on smoking in public places.

"This is a public safety issue," Jacobs said.

The rally by volunteers with the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network is set to take place just before an expected hearing and vote Wednesday in the Senate Public Policy Committee on the ban.

House Bill 1018, sponsored by state Rep. Charlie Brown, D-Gary, would exempt casinos, bars, tobacco shops and nursing homes.

Cancer Action Network volunteers and other participants in the rally plan to urge lawmakers to vote for an amended bill that includes bars and taverns in the ban, the group's spokeswoman Emily Coyle said.

"We want the senators to fix it in the committee hearing," Coyle said. "We want Indiana to be a smoke-free state, including in bars and restaurants. We want to protect the most number of workers."

Jacobs said he was 26 when his grandmother, a smoker, died of cancer.

Despite her suffering, "she managed to think about me," Jacobs said. "To me, she is still that wonderful person that I always knew, but I just am not going to get to spend that time with her."

Twenty-nine states have stricter smoke-free laws than Indiana, Jacobs said.

"We would like ours to be an example to others," he said.



Smoking-Ban Backer Demand Removal of Exemption for Bars

<http://www.wibc.com/news/Story.aspx?id=1396967>

By: Eric Berman

April 5, 2011

A day before a Senate committee vote, about 100 American Cancer Society volunteers rallied at the statehouse to talk to legislators one-on-one, and to serve notice they won't accept the argument the ban can't pass without exempting bars.

Alice Curry of Columbus, who's battling lung cancer, says most white-collar workplaces are smoke-free already.

"This bill is not a real improvement, and this bill is not taking 'baby steps.' This bill isn't even crawling," Curry says. "If this bill is passed, the end result is that Indiana won't be taking baby steps; we'll be sitting on our butts."

Curry and throat cancer survivor Michael Kelley of Muncie are both lifelong nonsmokers who believe secondhand smoke in smoke-filled workplaces caused their illnesses. Kelley vows to fight for the bill "to my last breath" to protect the health of future generations.

39 states have some form of statewide smoking ban. Depending on definitions, between 24 and 29 of those bans are comprehensive.

The bill passed by the House also exempts casinos and nursing homes, but the Cancer Society has zeroed in on the bar exemption as indefensible. They contend bars would gain, not lose, business if a ban were enacted. And they argue that even if bar owners' concerns about lost customers are correct, workers with few other options should not be forced to choose between their health or their job.

The 10-member Senate Public Policy Committee, chaired by Sen. Ron Alting (R-Lafayette) has taken the unusual step of announcing it will not consider amendments before voting. Any senator could introduce amendments if the bill reaches the floor.

The House voted 56-33 to exempt bars before voting 68-31 in favor of the amended bill.



Fate uncertain for proposed Indiana smoking ban

<http://www.newstimes.com/news/article/Fate-uncertain-for-proposed-Indiana-smoking-ban-1322771.php>

By: Tom Davies

April 5, 2011

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — The fate of a proposed statewide smoking ban in the state Legislature is uncertain, with anti-smoking advocates keeping up their push for restrictions that are tougher than some lawmakers think can win approval.

A couple hundred American Cancer Society members visited the Statehouse on Tuesday, a day ahead of an expected vote by the Senate Public Policy Committee on whether to endorse the smoking ban bill that includes exemptions for casinos, bars, fraternal clubs, smoke shops and nursing homes.

Allowing so many exemptions makes the bill one that the cancer society won't support, said Amanda Estridge, the group's state government relations manager.

"As the bill currently stands, it's not good enough," she said. "It's poised to be one of the weakest laws in the nation, and we think Indiana is better than that."

Committee Chairman Ron Alting, R-Lafayette, said he doesn't plan to allow any amendments changing the exemptions because he believes they are needed to secure enough votes for the ban to clear the Senate and the House.

Alting said he was frustrated with the ban advocates because they are pushing for broader limits than what has won House approval in five ban bills in recent years. This is the first time a Senate committee has considered a proposed smoking ban.

The bill's ban on smoking in other workplaces and restaurants would cover the exposure of most people to secondhand smoke, he said.

"Here you could get a bill that at least covers 80 percent of what you want," Alting said of the ban advocates. "Then you could come back the next year and try some more."

Alting said he wasn't sure how he would vote on the bill and that the lobbying by the ban advocates could kill the measure.

Rep. Eric Turner, who sponsored the ban bill in the House, said he supported a comprehensive ban without exemptions, but didn't think it would win approval. Turner, R-Cicero, said he wanted to see a statewide ban become law this year and that he would work in the future to make it tougher.

The exemptions for casinos and horse racing tracks was approved by the House after the nonpartisan Legislative Services Agency said banning smoking there could cost the state about \$190 million a year. The House later voted to exempt bars that only admit adults over age 21 after some lawmakers argued that it was unfair to exempt casinos and tracks without exempting bars, because bars located near casinos could lose business if smokers decided to hang out at casinos instead of at bars.

Exemptions for nursing homes and fraternal clubs were also added to appease those who said veterans and those living in nursing homes should have the right to smoke in certain areas.

Republican Gov. Mitch Daniels said he'd sign a statewide smoking ban into law if legislators approve it.



Indiana Senate panel sets vote on smoking ban

<http://www.wthr.com/story/14383711/indiana-senate-panel-sets-vote-on-smoking-ban>

April 5, 2011

Indianapolis - Another rally took place at the Statehouse Tuesday. This time the rally was urging lawmakers to expand the smoking ban.

About 200 volunteers with the American Cancer Society spent the day urging members of the Senate Public Policy Committee to pass House Bill 1018, also known as the smoke-free air bill. The protestors want it passed, but with amendments.

Lobbyists now want lawmakers to include bars and taverns, which are now exempt. They say if the bill is passed in its current form, employees in bars and taverns will not be protected.

"We really want to protect Hoosiers from secondhand smoke and it's a known fact that restaurant servers are 50% more likely to develop lung cancer than the average population," said ACS Volunteer Lucy Bruce-Whitaker.

The bill cleared the House by a 68-31 vote in January. The Senate Public Policy Committee is expected to vote on the bill Wednesday.

Committee Chairman Ron Alting of Lafayette has warned the ban's supporters that they could kill the bill by lobbying for a comprehensive ban that doesn't include wide exemptions.



Indiana Senate Panel to Vote on Smoking Bill

<http://www.wfpl.org/2011/04/05/indiana-senate-panel-to-vote-on-smoking-bill/>

By: Rick Howlett

April 5, 2011

An Indiana Senate committee is expected to vote Wednesday on whether a proposed statewide smoking ban will stay alive in the legislature.

The American Cancer Society and other groups say the current bill would still leave thousands of workers unprotected from second-hand smoke.

The House-passed bill includes exemptions for casinos, bars, clubs and smoke shops, whose owners say they'll lose business if they can't allow their patrons to smoke. Nursing homes would also be exempt.

Lawmakers say the measure has little chance of passing the Republican-controlled legislature without the loopholes.

Amanda Estridge with the American Cancer Society in Indiana says her organization has been trying to persuade lawmakers to amend the bill, even just enough to protect bar workers.

“The governor (Republican Mitch Daniels) said he would sign the bill but he would sign the bill even if we strengthen it, too. So we know that we have his support. And we just would like to see the strongest we can get passed,” she said.

The chairman of the Senate Public Policy Committee has said he won't allow amendments prior to Wednesday's vote.

Estridge says the proposed statewide ban is weaker than many city and town ordinances across Indiana.



Ind. Senate panel votes down proposed smoking ban

[http://www.wndu.com/localnews/headlines/Ind_Senate_panel_votes_down_proposed smoking_ban_119350344.html](http://www.wndu.com/localnews/headlines/Ind_Senate_panel_votes_down_proposed_smoking_ban_119350344.html)

By: Katherine Rufener

April 6, 2011

A proposed statewide smoking ban for Indiana has been defeated in a state Senate committee, with several members saying they opposed the many exemptions it included.

The Senate Public Policy Committee voted 8-1 Wednesday against the bill that had exemptions for casinos, bars, fraternal clubs, smoke shops and nursing homes.

American Cancer Society opposed the proposed ban on the grounds that it would be one of the weakest in the country.

Committee Chairman Ron Alting of Lafayette didn't allow senators to consider removing any of the exemptions that were in the bill approved by the House. Alting said those exemptions were needed to win enough votes to pass.

Longtime ban supporter Rep. Charlie Brown of Gary said he was disappointed that smoking opponents pushed to have the bill defeated.

newstimes.com

Ind. Senate panel rejects proposed smoking ban

<http://www.newstimes.com/news/article/Ind-Senate-panel-rejects-proposed-smoking-ban-1325418.php>

By: Tom Davies

April 6, 2011

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — A statewide smoking ban that health advocates assailed as too weak was rejected Wednesday by an Indiana Senate committee after several members said they supported broader restrictions on smoking in public places.

"People are asking for a clean-air bill — and this is not a clean-air bill," said Sen. Jim Arnold, D-LaPorte, who helped the Senate Public Policy Committee reject the plan on an 8-1 vote.

The bill, which had been approved in the House, provided exemptions to casinos, bars, fraternal clubs, smoke shops and nursing homes. The committee's chairman, Sen. Ron Alting, R-Lafayette, wouldn't allow senators to remove any of the exemptions, saying they were needed to secure enough votes in the Senate and the House.

Sen. Joe Zakas, R-Granger, said he would have supported expanding the ban to bars, but noted that lawmakers faced different views from various business groups and anti-smoking advocates.

"I think the default position became 'let's go back to the drawing board,'" Zakas said.

Sens. Veneta Becker, R-Evansville, and Greg Taylor, D-Indianapolis, voted against the bill after saying they supported a comprehensive ban. Sen. Tim Lanane, D-Anderson, was the only committee member who voted to advance the bill to the full Senate, saying he hoped the exemptions would be removed.

Arnold said he also wanted to see fewer places left out of a statewide ban.

The American Cancer Society opposed the proposed ban because it would be one of the weakest in the country, said Amanda Estridge, the group's state government relations manager.

Similar smoking ban proposals have cleared the House in recent years, but this was the first time one had been considered by a Senate committee.

Estridge said that was progress and rejected arguments from Alting that the proposal would have been a big step forward by prohibiting smoking in most workplaces and restaurants throughout the state.

"Bars are workplaces, too," she said. "Those that work in bars and taverns and private clubs are most regularly exposed to secondhand smoke."

Democratic Rep. Charlie Brown of Gary, who has led the smoking ban push in the House for several years, said he was caught off guard by the cancer society's opposition to the bill and was disappointed that it wasn't more willing to compromise in hopes of having even a weaker ban become law.

"I would have been more than happy to come back next year and talk about those four or five exemptions that are currently in there and which ones we can unitedly try to get out of there," Brown said.



Ind. Senate panel rejects proposed smoking ban

<http://www.indystar.com/article/20110406/NEWS05/110406009/1001/LOCAL01/Indiana-Senate-panel-rejects-proposed-statewide-smoking-ban?odyssey=nav/head>

By: Shari Rudavsky

April 6, 2011

Circulation: 182,933

A Senate committee voted down a measure today that would ban smoking in the workplace, with many of the naysayers saying the House's version did not go far enough.

The Senate Committee on Public Policy voted 8-1 to snuff out the bill, which would have prohibited smoking in most workplaces across the state, including restaurants. However, it exempted bars, casinos, nursing homes and fraternal clubs.

Exempting bars, in particular, proved to be a sticking point with the Indiana Campaign for Smoke-Free Air, a coalition of non-smoking advocates, including the American Cancer Society. In recent weeks, the advocates had lobbied against passage of the bill in its current form.

“We can do better than that,” said Amanda Estridge, Indiana government relations manager for the American Cancer Society.

But Rep. Charlie Brown, D-Gary, who sponsored the bill and its predecessors over the past five years, chastised the advocates for being unrealistic about the legislative process.

This year was the first year that a senate committee has heard testimony and voted on legislation to protect Indiana employees from smoke in the workplace.

“It’s beyond the pale to me that the advocates feel that they’re doing any good by failing to respect the art of compromise,” Brown said. “We want everyone to understand that there’s give and take.”

Without that give and take and an exemption for bars, it’s unlikely that a smoking bill will pass the House and Senate in the immediate future, said Sen. Ron Alting, R-Lafayette, committee chair, who voted against the measure.

If the no-smoking advocates had accepted the bill as it currently stands, the policy would likely have passed, Alting said.

“By this time next week, that bill unamended could have been on the governor’s desk,” he said.



Indiana Senate panel votes down proposed smoking ban

<http://www.wthr.com/story/14392000/senate-committe-to-vote-on-smoking-ban>

April 6, 2011

Indianapolis - A proposed statewide smoking ban for Indiana has been defeated in a state Senate committee, with several members saying they opposed the many exemptions it included.

The Senate Public Policy Committee voted 8-1 Wednesday against the bill that had exemptions for casinos, bars, fraternal clubs, smoke shops and nursing homes.

American Cancer Society opposed the proposed ban on the grounds that it would be one of the weakest in the country.

Committee Chairman Ron Alting of Lafayette didn't allow senators to consider removing any of the exemptions that were in the bill approved by the House. Alting said those exemptions were needed to win enough votes to pass.

Longtime ban supporter Rep. Charlie Brown of Gary said he was disappointed that smoking opponents pushed to have the bill defeated.

In January, the bill cleared the House by a 68-31 vote. In that version, casinos, bars, nursing homes and fraternal clubs can all create separate smoking areas.

"The American Cancer Society would like to make everything smoke free, but what our push is now, what we realistically think we can do, is asking bars and taverns to go smoke free," said Lucy Bruce-Whitaker, American Cancer Society.

About 200 protesters rallied at the Indiana Statehouse Tuesday pushing for just that.

They claim if the changes don't happen, people who choose to work in those places will not be protected.

"We would like for Indiana to come into the 21st century and pass a smoke free bill that includes bars and taverns. We really want to protect Hoosiers from second hand smoke. it's a known fact that restaurant servers are 50 percent more likely to develop lung cancer than the average population," Whitaker said. "We're not only saving lives, making more birthdays, we're saving money because those people are not going to be having to utilize treatment and detection."

Still, many bar and tavern owners say a smoking ban would hurt their business.



Statewide smoking ban fails to pass in committee

<http://www.fox59.com/business/wxin-vote-expected-wednesday-on-statewide-smoking-ban-20110406,0,6730426.story>

By: Ann Keil and Jake Miller

April 6, 2011

Indianapolis—

Wednesday, the Indiana Senate Public Policy Committee failed to pass House Bill 1018, a bill that would ban smoking in public places (with exemptions for bars and taverns) failed to pass. Committee Chair Ron Alting (R-Lafayette) refused to hear amendments that would have put bars and taverns back in the bill.

"We are not giving up. We know that smokefree air is the only way to protect workers from exposure to secondhand smoke, and we will continue to fight for a strong, smokefree air bill that protects employees of bars, taverns and restaurants workers who deserve the same protections as those in office buildings, schools and other smokefree environments," said Danielle Patterson, chair of the Indiana Campaign for Smokefree Air in a statement.

The bill had to move out of committee in order to keep it alive.

There has been a lot of heated debate over whether to exclude bars and taverns. Tuesday, nearly 200 demonstrators descended on the Indiana Statehouse in support of the bill as it reads now. The rally participants were volunteers with the American Cancer Society. They support smoke-free legislation that includes bars and taverns. Health advocates say a comprehensive ban would protect all workers who may be employed in businesses that allow smoking, from second-hand smoke. Critics worry casinos and bars would lose big business.

Fox59 News spoke with a man who knows the deadly dangers of second-hand smoke personally:

"I never smoked a cigarette in my life but at age 50 I got stage four throat cancer, carcinoma from secondhand smoke in the workplace," said Michael Kelley.

"No one in the state should have to choose... even if you work in a bar, [no one] should never have to choose between their health and their job. You have a right to work in a healthy workplace and our lawmakers have a responsibility to provide for the public health," Kelley added.

The bill cleared the House in January. Governor Mitch Daniels (R-Indiana) had said he would sign the bill into law if it comes across his desk.

Indiana Senate panel snuff out smoking ban bill

<http://www.southbendtribune.com/sbt-indiana-senate-panel-votes-down-proposed-smoking-ban-20110406,0,94875.story>

By: Kevin Allen

April 6, 2011

Circulation: 62,482

INDIANAPOLIS — Legislation to limit where Hoosiers can smoke advanced further than ever before in this year's Indiana General Assembly, but the idea still has fallen a few steps short of becoming law.

The Senate Committee on Public Policy shot down a bill Wednesday that would have prohibited smoking in most public places in the state.

Senators provided several reasons for opposing House Bill 1018 as they voted 8-1 against it.

Some don't believe the government should block business owners from allowing a legal activity on their properties. Others feel exemptions that were added in the House of Representatives for casinos, horse-racing tracks, bars, smoke shops, fraternal clubs and nursing homes watered down the bill.

Smoke-free advocates, including the American Cancer Society, stressed that they wanted a comprehensive statewide ban to protect people from secondhand smoke while they work. They wouldn't support the bill with so many exemptions in it.

Two north-central Indiana lawmakers — Sens. Jim Arnold, D-LaPorte, and Joe Zakas, R-Granger -- are Public Policy Committee members and cast votes against H.B. 1018 on Wednesday.

"People had positions that were all over the map," Zakas said.

"There are some exemptions that seem to be necessary and some maybe not so much. The advocates were basically opposed to the bill because it was too weak," he said, "so I think the default position became, 'Let's go back to the drawing board.' "

Arnold said he expects the issue to be before the legislature again next year.

"If we can get a better bill than this," he said, "I'll support it."

About 200 members of the American Cancer Society visited the Statehouse on Tuesday to talk to lawmakers about supporting a comprehensive ban.

Sen. Ron Alting, a Lafayette Republican who chairs the Public Policy Committee, was frustrated that advocates were pushing for restrictions that would likely have prevented H.B. 1018 from gaining approval in the full Senate.

Amanda Estridge, the Indiana government relations manager for the cancer society, said 29 other states have public smoking bans, and all of them are stronger than what the Senate committee was considering Wednesday. Michigan is one of those states.

"The bill doesn't protect enough Hoosiers," Estridge said. "We can do better than that."

Rep. Charlie Brown, a Gary Democrat who sponsored H.B. 1018 and has pushed for a statewide public smoking ban for several years, said he was caught off-guard that smoke-free advocates opposed the bill. He said he wants to disassociate himself from them.

"It is beyond the pale to me how these advocates can feel they're doing anybody any good by not understanding there's got to be compromise," he said. "I would have been more than happy to come back next year and talk about those four or five exemptions that are currently in there and which ones we can take out of there."

The House of Representatives has approved some form of a public smoking ban five times. This year is the first time a Senate committee has considered it.

Gov. Mitch Daniels had said he would have signed the ban if lawmakers approved it.

Brown said he plans to try for a ban again next year if he can't find a way to have the language amended into another bill before the end of this year's session.

Estridge said the cancer society will push for a comprehensive ban again next year as well.

"It's been done in 29 other states, and it takes time," she said, "but we'll keep fighting."



Smoking ban dies in Senate

http://www.nwitimes.com/news/local/lake/gary/article_0f3ab7c0-6e80-5d10-9f71-1d6d58241871.html

By: Dan Carden

April 6, 2011

Circulation: 83,877

INDIANAPOLIS | State Rep. Charlie Brown, D-Gary, vowed to try again next year after an Indiana Senate committee voted 8-1 on Wednesday to reject his proposed statewide indoor smoking ban.

House Bill 1018, as approved by the House 68-31 in January, would have prohibited smoking in all indoor public places with exemptions for bars, casinos, private clubs, tobacco shops and nursing homes.

But senators on the Public Policy Committee weren't happy with those exemptions. Some favored a comprehensive smoking ban with no exemptions, while others said state government shouldn't be dictating whether businesses can allow smoking.

"If you can get a better bill than this, I certainly would support it. But until such time I cannot; I vote no," said state Sen. Jim Arnold, D-LaPorte.

Committee opposition to the smoking ban included Republicans and Democrats, with only state Sen. Tim Lanane, D-Anderson, voting yes. Lanane, who supports a total indoor smoking ban, said the legislation should advance to the full Senate for a vote.

The committee defeat essentially kills the smoking ban for the year unless Brown can persuade a House-Senate conference committee to add the smoking ban to other legislation. Brown was pessimistic about that happening.

Speaking after the vote, the Gary representative blamed the American Cancer Society for lobbying lawmakers to hold out for a future comprehensive smoking ban and vote against a ban with exemptions.

"It is beyond the pale to me how these advocates feel they're doing anybody any good by not understanding that there's got to be compromise," Brown said. "It's all about give and take."

But Amanda Estridge, of the American Cancer Society, said she'd rather have nothing than see a law enacted that doesn't protect all Hoosiers.

"If this would have passed and gone to the governor's desk, Indiana would have passed one of the weakest laws in the nation, and that's not acceptable," Estridge said. "We can do better than that."

State Sen. Ron Alting, R-Lafayette, the committee chairman, said the only way a smoking ban ever will get Senate approval is with exemptions, and Brown's legislation as is would have protected most Hoosiers from dangerous secondhand smoke in most places they.

Panel snuffs out state smoking ban – Bill weighed down with exemptions dies in 8-1 vote

<http://www.journalgazette.net/article/20110407/NEWS07/304079955>

By: Niki Kelly

April 7, 2011

Circulation: 60,122

INDIANAPOLIS – An all-or-nothing attitude likely doomed Indiana’s shot at a statewide smoking ban Wednesday as members of the Senate Public Policy Committee voted 8-1 to defeat the proposal.

Rep. Charlie Brown, D-Gary, blamed the American Cancer Society for calling lawmakers and asking them to vote against the measure because of the number of exemptions in the bill.

“It’s beyond the pale,” he said, noting no legislation passes in the General Assembly unscathed. “They failed to understand give-and-take.”

But the American Cancer Society stood its ground, saying the bill would not have protected enough Hoosiers.

“We can do better,” said Amanda Estridge, the Indiana government relations manager for the American Cancer Society. “This law would have been one of the weakest in the nation.”

She noted the group will fight harder next year for a true comprehensive smoking ban, saying this year was not lost since the proposed legislation got further in the Senate than it had ever before.

Estridge also noted that several members of the committee filed amendments to improve the bill by removing some of the exemptions, but the chairman refused to allow them.

“That’s not democracy,” she said.

House Bill 1018 would have prohibited smoking in most public places, including offices, hotels, businesses, restaurants, bowling alleys and more. And it would have allowed local ordinances to be more restrictive than state law.

The drive behind the bill is to protect employees in public places from working in conditions that are hazardous to their health. Several exemptions were added to the bill, including the state’s 13 casinos, two horse tracks and all bars and taverns serving only those 21 and older.

The bill also would have allowed nursing homes and private clubs such as American Legion and VFW halls to have separate smoking areas in the facilities.

“People are asking for a clean air bill and this is not a clean air bill,” said Sen. James Arnold, D-LaPorte. He noted he would support a true smoking ban next year, but voted against the bill Wednesday.

The only member to vote for the bill was Sen. Tim Lanane, D-Anderson, who said he wanted the bill to at least get to the floor so the exemptions could be looked at by the entire chamber.

Sen. Ron Alting, R-Lafayette, would not allow members to offer amendments in committee – noting if too many exemptions were removed it had no chance to pass the full Senate.

He said he supports a smoking ban and pointed out that he lost his wife to cancer. He also said in a prepared statement that the bill “was better than no statewide regulations at all.” Despite that, he voted no.

“We are going to lose the battle on this one,” Alting said.

Brown said Alting and others voted ‘no’ because they are “chicken.”

The bill is now dead. Though the measure is eligible to be inserted into another bill at the end of the session, Brown conceded that would be unlikely.



A longer wait to be free of smoke

<http://www.indystar.com/article/20110407/OPINION08/104070375/A-longer-wait-free-smoke?odyssey=mod|newswell|text|Opinion|p>

Op-Ed

April 7, 2011

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Backers of legislation to make Indiana a smoke-free state faced a Hobson's choice Wednesday, as a state Senate committee considered House Bill 1018.

A vote against the anti-smoking measure may not have been any more of a defeat than a vote in favor, considering how watered-down the House version is.

As it turned out, the bill failed in the Public Policy Committee by a resounding 8 to 1. However, the negatives were divided between senators opposed to a state-mandated ban and those who saw the proposal as too weak.

Now, clear air advocates may attempt to revive the legislation and then close some of the gaping holes in HB 1018 during House-Senate conferencing. That's a doubly tall order.

Bars, casinos, nursing homes, service clubs and other venues would be exempt from the law in its current form, leaving an unacceptable number of Hoosiers exposed to secondhand smoke in the face of definitive studies linking it to widespread illness and death -- an estimated 1,000 deaths of Hoosier nonsmokers annually.

The lobbyists' excuse for the dispensation is both cynical and groundless. Studies and experience have shown that smoke-free laws are not a drag on business.

After several years of trying to add Indiana to that majority of states that have comprehensive no-smoking laws, state Rep. Charlie Brown, D-Gary, accepted the final version of his bill in the hope that it was not necessarily final -- that is, perhaps in the Senate this year, or in the General Assembly in future years, it could be shored up. Given Wednesday's vote, it looks as though he is back to square one; and perhaps that is just as well.

As the General Assembly has dithered over the public health issue of smoking, clear air ordinances have sprouted in local communities throughout the state, the number of state mandates in the nation has passed 30 and the medical and financial benefits of going smoke free have become impossible for anyone but Big Tobacco to ignore.

These pressures will only grow behind Brown and his allies as they push for a bona fide shield against the threat of toxic fumes in public spaces. It is a shame the trends and data have not reached critical mass by now in one of the highest-smoking states in the land.

Hoosiers deserve better than HB 1018. If they can't have a law that's up to the task this year, they're better off waiting. They should remind their elected servants that, for 1,000 Hoosiers, there won't be a next year.

Senate panel puts out watered-down smoking ban

<http://www.indystar.com/article/20110407/NEWS05/104070391/Senate-panel-puts-out-watered-down-smoking-ban-?odyssey=tab|topnews|text|IndyStar.com>

By: Shari Rudavsky

April 7, 2011

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Once more, Indiana has snuffed out a statewide smoking ban.

A Senate committee Wednesday voted nearly unanimously to kill a bill that arrived from the House so watered down, not even the American Cancer Society would support it.

This represented the fifth attempt in as many years to pass such legislation, and this year's bill got further than any in the past.

The American Cancer Society lobbied against the bill in its current form because it exempted bars and taverns.

Amanda Estridge, Indiana government relations manager for the society, said the vote was for the best.

"We can do better than that," Estridge said.

Twenty-nine other states have legislation the American Cancer Society deems comprehensive.

Had the bill passed, it would have been one of the weaker smoking policies in the U.S., excluding bars, casinos, nursing homes and private clubs, she said. Health officials are pushing to reduce the adult smoking rate to 21 percent of all Hoosiers from 26 percent.

Each year, 1,000 Hoosiers die from secondhand smoke. Secondhand smoke costs Indiana about \$390.3 million in excess medical expenses, or about \$62 per person each year, according to Indiana Tobacco Prevention and Cessation.

Advocates said they do not consider Wednesday's 8-1 vote a victory.

"At the end of the day, Hoosiers are losing out," said Danielle Patterson, chairwoman of the Indiana Campaign for Smokefree Air. "We just didn't want a bad policy."

The bill's sponsor, Rep. Charlie Brown, D-Gary, however, chastised advocates for being unrealistic about the legislative process.

"It's beyond the pale to me that the advocates feel that they're doing any good by failing to respect the art of compromise," Brown said. "We want everyone to understand that there's give-and-take."

But Patterson said the campaign had accepted exemptions for casinos, despite some trepidation about that concession.

Other states, including Illinois, have smoking policies that include casinos. In Indiana, the casino industry has lobbied hard for an exemption.

"We swallowed that bitter pill," Patterson said.

A compromise on bars went too far, she added.

The Committee on Public Policy members had no opportunity to change the version of the bill the House handed them. Chairman Ron Alting, R-Lafayette, brought up the bill on a vote-only basis.

After the hearing, he defended that decision, saying exempting bars would be the only way to pass a workplace smoking policy in this state. Each time a no-smoking measure has passed the House, bars and taverns have been on the list of exemptions.

"If you want something realistically to get passed, they (the bars) have to be in it for the immediate future," Alting said.

Others argued that the best policy would be no exemptions.

Still, the many exemptions did not deter Sen. Tim Lanane, D-Anderson, from casting the lone vote in support of the measure.

"There's something in me that says that the bill should have an opportunity on the Senate floor," he said.

Other senators on the committee said they could not support the bill because it did not go far enough.

"People are asking for a clean-air bill, and this is not a clean-air bill," said Sen. Jim Arnold, D-LaPorte.

Sen. Greg Taylor, D-Indianapolis, said when he lights up, he tries to ensure he does not affect anyone else with his smoke. This bill just did not go far enough, he said.

"This is not the right way. The right way is to do a comprehensive bill that exempts nobody," Taylor said.

Brown said the setback would not deter him from continuing to try to pass some form of a workplace smoking policy.

With a few weeks remaining in the session, Brown did not rule out an attempt to revive the bill, saying he will look at "some creative things."

And if not, he said, he has every intention of trying again next year

PAL-ITEM

Indiana still smoking – State’s anti-tobacco efforts report mixed success after first decade

<http://www.pal-item.com/article/20110418/NEWS01/104180304>

By: Ken Kusmer

April 17, 2011

Circulation: 17,000

INDIANAPOLIS -- Indiana's top anti-tobacco agency has reached its 10th birthday with much to celebrate: Fewer people are smoking, more communities and employers are going smoke-free and the agency has earned a national reputation for results.

But Indiana Tobacco Prevention and Cessation officials acknowledge they still have work to do in a state that in 2008 had the nation's highest smoking rate and still has more than 1 million smokers whose tobacco use costs Medicaid nearly \$500 million each year and leads to nearly 10,000 Indiana deaths.

ITPC, created in 2001 with some of the \$4.5 billion Indiana received from the tobacco industry's 1998 settlement with state attorneys general, won praise early on from the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for being among the few state agencies that had the minimum amount of funding the CDC said was needed to effectively fight tobacco use. That funding, as high as \$32.8 million in 2003, fell to \$10.8 million just a year later. It remains at that level.

Rep. Peggy Welch, D-Bloomington and a member of the State Budget Committee, said ITPC receives less state money because the millions of dollars of additional funding it formerly received were "low hanging fruit" when budget writers were looking for programs to cut.

"We have a hard time in this state investing money now for its long-term gains," Welch said. "It's going to save us money in the long run, but we're not willing to make that investment now."

Karla Sneegas, ITPC's executive director since its inception, said the agency built a statewide "infrastructure" for tobacco prevention and cessation in its early years and is able now to make "longer sustaining changes that don't require as much in terms of per-capita funding."

Building that infrastructure began with getting Indiana's schools to go smoke-free, said Sneegas, a former teacher in Huntingburg. Now 70 percent of Indiana school campuses are smoke-free, compared with 28 percent a decade ago. More than 2,000 community organizations statewide are working to curb tobacco use, and ITPC says per-capita cigarette use has declined by 40 percent over 10 years.

And though lawmakers have resisted calls for a statewide ban on smoking in public places, more than 30 communities -- including Fort Wayne, Bloomington and Elkhart -- have passed smoke-free air ordinances, and more than 300 employers have gone smoke-free network in just the past year.

Welch wrote a letter for an ITPC time capsule that will be opened in 10 years in which she said she hoped Indiana would be a true clean air state in 2021 and that she as a cancer nurse would need to worry about her job security.

The time capsule filled with letters, tobacco products, anti-tobacco ads and other mementoes will be housed at the Ruth Lilly Health Education Center, which serves 125,000 students each year, many for courses teaching the effects of tobacco use and other health topics.

Julian Peebles, the center's president, said government agencies receive a lot of criticism these days, but ITPC is an exception.

"Indiana Tobacco Prevention and Cessation is a government agency that works," Peebles said.

Sneegas said ITPC's goals for the next 10 years include eradicating smoking among all pregnant women -- about one in five still do -- and making nearly all homes and workplaces in Indiana smoke free.

To do so, her group will need to win over people like Steve Stailey of Indianapolis, who smoked a cigarette as he walked his bike toward a bus stop outside the Statehouse Thursday. He said he's smoked for 25 years.

"I have no desire to quit," Stailey said, noting he takes narcotic painkillers every day for a bad back, "and that's probably hard on my liver. ... I'm already 51, you know, so I think I'm going to make it."

Other smokers feel differently. Sneegas said she stopped recently at a grocery store in the southern Indiana town of Orleans, only to overhear a middle-aged man in front of her ask for a pack of cigarettes. She said he told the clerk, "I really don't want to buy these. I try to quit, but I

got into the weekend and I'm so stressed out, and I just can't make it, I've got to have a pack of cigarettes."

Sneegas introduced herself and gave him a piece of paper on which she had written 1-800-QuitNow (1-800-784-8669), the state's helpline for tobacco users who want to break the habit.

"We have to continue to help those who need to quit," she said.



Smoking ban bill defeated by Ind. Senate Committee

<http://www.idsnews.com/news/story.aspx?id=81202>

By: Michela Tindera

April 18, 2011

Circulation: 16,000

The bill that would make it illegal to smoke in most public places in Indiana was recently defeated in an Indiana Senate committee.

House Bill 1018 passed in the House with a 68-31 vote Jan. 31. However, it lost in an 8-1 vote in the Senate Public Policy committee. It was written and sponsored by state Rep. Charlie Brown, D-Gary.

The proposed bill would have been enacted in July. It would have prohibited smoking in public places and enclosed areas of employment, though it had several exemptions added in the House. Bars, casinos, fraternal clubs and nursing homes could still allow smoking.

The American Cancer Society urged senators to vote against this ban if it contained exemptions.

Committee chairman, Ron Alting R-Lafayette, refused to allow any amendments to the bill that would strengthen it while it was reviewed by the committee.

Voting on the bill was slowed last month due to the House Democrat walkout, which impeded more than 100 pieces of legislation passed before Feb. 22.

There are 35 states that already have some form of smoking ban legislation in place, including Illinois, Michigan and Ohio.

Indiana is known as a smoke-heavy state, ranking fifth in the nation in number of adult smokers. Bloomington has had its own smoke-free laws since 2003.

They were designed to protect the public health and welfare of the community from health hazards induced by breathing secondhand smoke, according to www.smokefreebloomington.org.

An IU study published March 22 determined that a smoke-free air law implemented in an Indiana community did not hurt business at the off-track betting facility in that community, according to an IU News Room press release.

Brown said in a press release that he was not pleased with the exemptions that could have cost the vote in the Senate committee.

“By picking away at the edges of the ban with exemption after exemption, we are getting to the point where we might as well not even have a ban at all,” Brown said. “That runs counter to the wishes of the people of this state, and I would hope that we would pay attention to their thoughts and feelings as this debate goes along.”



It's not too late to have smoke-free workplaces for all

<http://www.indystar.com/article/20110420/OPINION01/104200306/It-s-not-too-late-smoke-free-workplaces-all?odyssey=mod|newswell|text|Opinion|s>

By: Allison Martin

April 19, 2011

Circulation: 182,933

House Bill 1018, in its original form, would have barred smoking in virtually all workplaces in the state. Powerful special interests intervened, however, and forced exemptions for nursing homes, casinos and private clubs. Smoke-free advocates grudgingly watched the amendments,

hoping to live to fight another day. But the public policy goal of making all workplaces smoke free has always been held front and center.

That's why smoke-free advocates were not willing to cave when the topic of bars and taverns was debated. Thousands of Hoosiers earn their living, support their families, or pay for schooling as employees in bars and taverns across our state. The work is difficult, tiring and most often very smoky. These people deserve to breathe the same smoke-free air when they're working as we do in our office buildings.

Opponents of smoke-free workplaces suggest that unrealistic public health zealots are intransigent in their desire to protect workers from secondhand smoke. The only intransigence I observe is that of a few powerful legislators who see no hypocrisy in declaring their own Statehouse workplace smoke free, while denying that same right to their constituents.

Let us use these final days of the legislative session to find ways to protect Hoosier workers with smoke-free legislation, especially those Hoosiers who need it most, the hourly paid servers in our bars and taverns.

Alison Martin

Executive director, American

Lung Association in Indiana

Indianapolis



GOP intent on killing effective anti-smoking program

<http://www.indystar.com/article/20110422/NEWS08/104220348/Tully-GOP-intent-killing-effective-anti-smoking-program?odyssey=tab|topnews|text|IndyStar.com>

By: Matthew Tully

April 22, 2011

Circulation: 182,933

Once again, Republicans in the Indiana Senate are doing everything they can to make sure efforts to reduce smoking rates in Indiana fail.

This time around, they are trying to kill a state program that is considered one of the nation's

most effective anti-smoking efforts. It's partially responsible for Indiana's decline in smoking rates over the past 10 years. Led by Sen. Luke Kenley, R-Noblesville, the effort to drop the program is happening without public debates and through shamefully sneaky last-minute maneuvers.

No surprise, of course. This is part of what has been a pro-smoking pattern at the Statehouse this year. Lawmakers recently killed the best chance Indiana's had to implement a statewide smoking ban and have long been unable to understand basic economics: The state's costs drop dramatically when smoking rates decline.

The latest attack on anti-smoking efforts occurred Monday when Kenley, chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, released his proposed version of the new two-year state budget. The budget plan arrived as the 4-month-old 2011 legislative session entered its final days.

So you can imagine the surprise among many of the state's health advocates when they learned Kenley had not only slashed funding for tobacco prevention programs but also tucked in a rider that would kill the decade-old Indiana Tobacco Prevention and Cessation program.

The program in recent years has seen its funding, which comes from the national tobacco settlement, drop from about \$35 million a year to \$10 million. Kenley's budget would cut funding to \$5 million -- an embarrassment and nowhere near enough to run an effective, evidence-based statewide program. Worse, he also included one line deep in the budget that would dismantle ITPC and put its functions under the Indiana State Department of Health, ridding ITPC of its independence -- an independence that has irritated tobacco industry advocates.

Kenley and Gov. Mitch Daniels say they support anti-smoking programs and argue that the sprawling Department of Health can effectively manage such efforts. They'd have more credibility if funding weren't being slashed again. Either way, there is a tremendous upside to having an agency whose sole mission is to reduce smoking.

As the final week of the session approaches, anti-smoking advocates hope to mobilize opposition to the plan and are encouraging supporters to call their lawmakers and the governor's office. But Kenley's decision to make his move at the end of the session, without the benefit of even one hearing, is making the task hard.

It's also endangering a program that spends most of its small budget providing grants to county programs -- programs that help Hoosier smokers quit, boost support for smoke-free laws and spread an anti-smoking message to children. Since the program's creation, smoking rates among teens have dropped dramatically, and the rate among all Hoosiers is down to 23 percent, from about 28 percent.

The anti-smoking program has been successful because it has been bold, politically independent, unwilling to bow to lawmakers and served by a top-notch board.

"It's so incredibly cost-effective," Dr. Stephen Jay, one board member, said Thursday, pointing to the high cost of treating smoking-related illnesses.

The program is smart economics. It's effective and research-based. And it's laser-focused. It's also in danger. So call your lawmakers.



Senate picks wrong time to ax agency

<http://www.journalgazette.net/article/20110422/EDIT07/304229998/1147/EDIT07>

April 22, 2011

Circulation: 60,122

Only West Virginia has a higher percentage of adult smokers than Indiana. That's why an 11th-hour move to abolish the Indiana Tobacco Use Prevention and Cessation Board is ill-advised. Lawmakers should hold off until the public has had time to review a plan to shift responsibilities to the Indiana State Department of Health.

The Senate Appropriations Committee measure approved this week cuts the governor's original allocation of \$9.23 million a year for anti-tobacco programs to \$4.6 million a year, as well as abolishing the board. Indiana's share of the \$246 billion settlement with the tobacco industry, not tax dollars, supports the smoking-prevention agency.

If Indiana hasn't fared well in its efforts to reduce smoking among adults, it has still seen encouraging results. Annual per-capita cigarette consumption by Hoosiers fell 40 percent between 2001 and 2009. For high school students, the percentage of smokers fell from 31.6 percent in 2000 to 18.3 percent in 2008. In Fort Wayne, efforts by Tobacco Free Allen County were key to approval of the city's comprehensive smoking ban, the strongest and best in the state.

Dick Conklin, executive director of the Tobacco Free Allen County, said abolishing the ITPC will result in the closing of the local resource offices.

Conklin hopes area lawmakers will push to restore funding at the level recommended by the governor. Given Indiana's dubious distinction for highest percentage of adult smokers, it seems like the right move.



Cutting funds for tobacco plan to hurt Hoosiers

April 22, 2011

Circulation: 21,500

IT'S always commendable that our elected legislators strive to ease taxpayer burdens.

To that end, recent General Assemblies have taken aim at slashing a number of taxpayer-supported programs, sometimes to the detriment of the people, organizations and governments that have benefited from them.

Some members in the current General Assembly, however, have taken this cost-cutting approach to a new level, proposing to slash not only programs paid for with tax dollars but ones that were already funded by other entities.

House Bill 1001 — the budget bill — has taken a draconian step in severely cutting funds for the Indiana Tobacco Prevention and Cessation Agency. The organization had asked for \$9.3 million in its original budget plan, but the bill would reduce that to approximately \$5 million.

It would be one thing if the agency were funded through taxpayer dollars, but it received its operating money from the Master Settle Agreement that the state negotiated with major tobacco companies several years ago.

That agreement and the funds it made available to Indiana communities have been critical to efforts to improve the health of Hoosiers through tobacco cessation programs. It has been especially important in Bartholomew County, where the local Tobacco Awareness Action Team has had a significant impact.

Consider just some of the achievements this group has recorded in its brief history:

- Tobacco Abuse and Consequence educational presentations to over 1,000 sixth grade students each year.
- High School Heroes — Every fifth grade in the community heard the anti-tobacco message from teens.
- 91 teens attended the mandatory educational sessions after receiving tickets for tobacco possession from Bartholomew County Circuit Court.
- 80 adults participated in local community cessation clinics.
- 600 Bartholomew County adults received assistance from the Indiana Tobacco Quitline.
- Top 30 employers received assistance to increase employee tobacco cessation benefits through opportunities for on-site clinics and support from the Indiana Tobacco Quitline.
- Educated 70 families and 15 staff members of Head Start about the dangers of secondhand smoke and the benefit in quitting tobacco.

It is a program that works. To reduce its funding will not help Hoosier taxpayers. It will only damage the health of the people of Indiana.

General Smokefree Air Articles



Ind. Senate panel chairman says smoking bill will get vote as is

http://www.nwitimes.com/news/local/lake/gary/article_2146bea9-49df-5ddf-82cb-9ae8c0e49de8.html

By: Dan Carden

April 4, 2011

Circulation: 83,877

INDIANAPOLIS | A House-approved statewide indoor smoking ban is scheduled for a Senate committee vote Wednesday, but the committee chairman will not allow the legislation to be amended before the vote.

State Rep. Charlie Brown, D-Gary, wants House-inserted smoking ban exemptions for bars and nursing homes removed from House Bill 1018. But state Sen. Ron Alting, R-Lafayette, chairman of the Senate Public Policy Committee, said Monday that's not going to happen.

"No amendments are going to make it out," Alting said. "You don't have the votes for it."

Since the House approved the legislation 68-31 in January, anti-smoking groups have pressured state senators to vote for either a total indoor smoking ban or none at all.

Alting said he doesn't understand that strategy, saying it's better to get something this year and come back next year trying for more, than to not get anything at all.

"If the American Cancer Society would have lobbied in favor of the bill as is, there's no question that not just in the committee but we could have gotten it out of here (the Senate) and it could be on the governor's desk," Alting said.

As it stands now, Alting said he doesn't know whether the smoking ban will be approved by the committee and advance to the full Senate for a final vote.

The House has approved smoking bans with various exemptions in five prior years. This will be the first time a Senate committee votes on a smoking ban.



Statewide smoking ban supporters rally at Statehouse

<http://www.fox59.com/news/wxin-smoking-ban-statewide-smoking-ban-supporters-rally-at-statehouse-20110405,0,1345686.story>

April 5, 2011

Indianapolis—

Nearly 200 demonstrators descended on the Statehouse Tuesday night to show their support for a statewide smoking ban.

The ralliers were American Cancer Society volunteers. They said they support smoke-free legislation and want it to include bars and taverns in a ban.

One man said he knows personally, the deadly dangers of secondhand smoke.

"I never smoked a cigarette in my life. But at age 50 I got 4 stage throat cancer, Carcinoma, from secondhand smoke in the workplace," said Michael Kelley.

The state Senate's Public Policy Committee will decide whether to allow a vote on a version of the smoking ban bill that includes bars and taverns.

WBEZ91.5

Indiana state senators consider exactly where to snuff out smoking

<http://www.wbez.org/story/american-cancer-society/indiana-state-senators-consider-exactly-where-snuff-out-smoking-84784#>

By: Michael Puente

April 5, 2011

A state-wide smoking ban continues to move through the Indiana legislature. The measure has already passed the Indiana House and is now in the hands of state senators.

On Wednesday the Senate's public policy committee will consider exactly what public places Hoosiers can and cannot smoke; they will consider exemptions for casinos, bars, fraternal clubs, smoke shops and nursing homes.

Policy committee chair Ron Alting says proponents lobbying for a more comprehensive smoking ban with fewer exemptions could end up killing the chances to enact any ban at all.

Lobbyists for gambling industry contend a ban would hurt their business, but state coffers would suffer, too; the state from collecting millions in revenue from gambling operations.

The nonpartisan Legislative Services Agency estimated Indiana could lose more than \$180 million a year if a ban is applied to casinos.

Nonetheless, volunteers of the American Cancer Society are expected to lobby lawmakers for a tougher ban before tomorrow's committee vote.

Indiana Governor Mitch Daniels says he support any smoking ban that makes it his desk.

State Representative Charlie Brown of Gary started the legislative push for a statewide smoking ban.

Statewide smoking bans have been suggested for several years but never cleared the Senate. Some Indiana towns have enacted their own bans on smoking in public places, and proponents say that may have bolster support for a statewide ban.



Playing zero-sum politics with a smoking-ban bill

<http://www.indystar.com/article/20110406/OPINION12/104060316/Playing-zero-sum-politics-smoking-ban-bill?odyssey=mod|newswell|text|IndyStar.com|s>

By: Abdul-Hakim Shabazz

April 5, 2011

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Whenever an article or column appears in The Star about smoking bans, it generates a lot of emotions in the online comments section and letters to the editor. I am about to write about the proposed statewide smoking ban, and I just want to make this quick point. If you oppose a statewide ban and want to comment on it, please do not call the smoking ban proponents Nazis, fascists, terrorists or jihadists.

I say that for two reasons: First, personal attacks and name-calling are not cool. Second, you can negotiate with the aforementioned groups; the anti-smoking crowd, not so much.

An Indiana Senate committee is scheduled to take up the issue of a statewide smoking ban this week. If passed, the measure would ban smoking in virtually all public places with the exception of bars, casinos, taverns, legion halls, tobacco shops and nursing homes. In other words, an estimated 80 to 90 percent of Indiana businesses would be smoke free. But for some reason, that 85 percent average isn't good enough for the anti-smoking crowd.

They continue to insist on playing zero-sum politics. It's either all or none. And to be honest, their tactics of late have been questionable. Ron Alting of Lafayette is chairman of the Senate

Public Policy Committee, which will hear the bill. Smoking-ban proponents took out a half-page ad against him in his hometown newspaper. They also have put out news releases accusing him of taking money from groups that oppose the ban. They're trying to paint Alting as being in the cigarette holder of the tobacco companies.

What are they smoking?

For some reason, the smoking ban advocates can't fathom that getting 85 percent of something is much better than getting 100 percent of nothing. Compromise is the cornerstone of the legislative process. You have an idea for legislation. You do the research, talk to your fellow members and see where they are on the issue and try to craft something that will allow you to get 51 percent of the votes. There is no way a smoking ban will pass in the Indiana Senate without an exemption for bars and taverns. That's not Big Tobacco talking; that's reality shouting at the top of its lungs.

The original bill that passed out of the House started out as a total ban, but that had about as much chance of passing as I would being elected grand wizard of the Ku Klux Klan. So compromises were made and the measure passed with nearly three-fourths of the support of Indiana lawmakers. Compromise and knowing where your votes are aren't backroom politics; it's a necessity for anyone who has ever spent time in a legislative body.

We don't always get 100 percent of what we want. Personally, I would like to see the legislation not only include an exemption for cigar bars, but a pre-emption clause so local governments couldn't come back and pass a tougher law that would put the local Downtown or Northside cigar lounge out of business. But this is how the process works.

Now the anti-smoking people will say that too many people are being left exposed to the dangers of secondhand smoke. Yet, in any place I've ever frequented that allowed smoking, I did not see anyone chained behind a bar while they were exposed to secondhand smoke.

The smoking opponents should take the current compromise, accept it and then prepare and make available online a statewide job listing of every nonsmoking bar and tavern in Indiana. For the ones that do allow smoking, they should reach out to the owners of those places and convince them to go smoke free, or at least put out tobacco cessation literature.

There are a number of educational and outreach actions the smoking-ban proponents could do in the absence of fighting for a bill that in today's climate has no chance of passing. I know they may not like it. But that's how it is. If they accept the political reality, they'll feel a lot better. Of course, they could also join me for a cigar and a cocktail Downtown and they'll feel even more better.



Senate committee votes down smoke bill – Restaurant says bill could have cost them

<http://www.wlfi.com/dpp/news/local/Senate-committee-votes-down-smoke-bill>

April 6, 2011

LAFAYETTE, Ind. (WLFI) - A proposed bill that would ban smoking in public places does not make it out of a senate committee. The senate public policy committee voted down a bill that would have given exemptions to bars and taverns in a state wide smoking ban.

Bars in Lafayette already operate under a smoking ordinance, some restaurant managers said a state ban could have leveled the playing field. Jami Letson is one of the managers at Chumley's in Lafayette. She said their restaurant bar operates well under the city of Lafayette's smoking ordinance. Letson said a state wide ban on smoking would have made anti-smoking laws even.

"If it was a state wide ban, I honestly don't think it would affect us because, it would give every one a level playing field because, no one would allow it," said Letson.

Under the city's smoking ordinance that passed in 2008 business were allowed to choose to offer smoking. Patrons of Rossville's Treece's Restaurant and Lounge said, decisions about smoking should be left to the owner.

"I think you get too much government control over things and it should be up to the individual owner," said restaurant patron Franklin Meyers.

Co-owner of Treece's, Jason Treece said a statewide smoking ban could have hurt their business.

"About 50 percent of our cliental are smokers and we do draw a crowd from Lafayette and Kokomo, just for the simple fact you can smoke in here," said Treece.

State Senator Ron Alting is the chair of the public policy committee. He said the bill had no chance of surviving out of committee.



Indiana Senate Committee Rejects Smoking Ban

<http://www.wfpl.org/2011/04/06/indiana-senate-committee-rejects-smoking-ban/>

By: Rick Howlett

April 6, 2011

A proposed statewide smoking ban for Indiana has been voted down by a state Senate committee.

The House-approved measure would have exempted casinos, bars, clubs and nursing homes. Some of those who voted 'no' said they opposed some or all of the exemptions.

Anti-smoking groups also pushed to have the bill defeated, saying it failed to protect thousands of workers from second-hand smoke.

Senate Public Policy Committee Chairman Ron Alting contended the exemptions were needed for the bill to win full passage.

“Any step that we can make to help non-smoking, or a smoke free environment to help the health of hoosiers is a positive one. But having said that, I’m going to lose this battle,” he said.

The Republican-led committee defeated the measure by a vote of 8-1.



Proposed statewide smoking ban for Indiana will not happen

<http://www.whas11.com/news/local/Proposed-statewide-smoking-ban-for-Indiana-will-not-happen-119350394.html>

April 6, 2011

A proposed statewide smoking ban for Indiana won't happen.

It has been voted down in a senate committee, with several members saying they opposed the many exemptions included.

The bill had exemptions for casinos, bars, fraternal clubs, smoke shops and nursing homes.

The ban was even opposed by the American Cancer Society, which said the ban would be one of the weakest in the country.



Supporters Want Smoking Ban Exemptions Removed

<http://www.eaglecountryonline.com/news.php?nID=1574>

April 6, 2011

(Indianapolis, Ind.) - A bill to ban smoking in Indiana will be considered by a state Senate panel Wednesday.

Hundreds of anti-smoking advocates with the American Cancer Society rallied at the statehouse in Indianapolis Tuesday urging to Senate Public Policy Committee to put more teeth in the bill.

The current version exempts casinos, bars, fraternal clubs, smoke shops and nursing homes from a statewide smoking ban. The cancer society says those exemptions would make Indiana's smoking ban one of the weakest in the nation.

But, some lawmakers have warned that removing the exclusions would greatly diminish the bill's chances of clearing the legislature.

The legislation has already passed the House on a 68-31 vote in January.

Governor Mitch Daniels has said he would sign a state smoking ban into law if it makes it to his desk.



<http://insight3.vmsinfo.com/RtccProactiveReport.external?sp=StaO0%2FqvBNsJMgz30vs%2BZcAJa7p8RHCKV4DTa5BIznWUWFh1Ww4T7n00mloQzDq2aNPUrTyaWAYGdp38hb2cSm1oIcEIMUMiPnCtd15m5fV0%3D>

April 6, 2011 6:00 a.m. broadcast

Morning smoking ban battle lines are drawn to each... Coming up today in a senate committee... The during the legislation debate over what will and will not be exempted yesterday about a hundred American cancer society volunteers readily to the statehouse to talk to legislators and served notice that they will not accept the argument that the band cannot pass without exempting bars to hear from the week covering the vote today will see what happens...



<http://insight3.vmsinfo.com/RtccProactiveReport.external?sp=StaO0%2FqvBNsJMgz30vs%2BZcAJa7p8RHCKV4DTa5BIznWUWFh1Ww4T7n00mloQzDq2akhhI8cWPJu3qUvrhqHX7yloIcEIMUMiPnCtd15m5fV0%3D>

April 6, 2011 6:00 a.m. broadcast

Lawmakers at the state house are discussing a statewide smoking ban will tell you why one group says it needs more

<http://insight3.vmsinfo.com/RtccProactiveReport.external?sp=StaO0%2FqvBNsJMgz30vs%2BZcAJa7p8RHCKV4DTa5BIznWUWFh1Ww4T7n00mloQzDq2aW7qVW5a%2Fua8XMhmOzmxblVoIcEIMUMiPnCtd15m5fV0%3D>

April 6, 2011 7:00 a.m. broadcast

Gov. Daniels said he would sign it into law. Amendments will not be allowed to the current bill which includes exemptions for casinos and bars. If passed it3 would ban smoking in all public demonstrators came to the state house urging lawmakers to pass legislation on the smoking ban. They were with the American cancer society. They support it and taverns. One man we spoke to knows the dangers personally. No one in this state even if you work in a bar should ever have6 c1to choose between your help and your job. Critics worry casinos and bars would lose big business. A comprehensive ban would protect all workers. Cancer society lobbyist said Indiana's ban would be one of the weakest and the company and the group would not support it without

the debate is still up here. If it is not passed out of the committee and it might not survive this session.

April 6, 2011 7:00 a.m. broadcast

<http://insight3.vmsinfo.com/RtccProactiveReport.external?sp=StaO0%2FqvBNsJMgz30vs%2BZcAJa7p8RHCKV4DTa5BIznWWoVf4Sm0chCgKcJLsHE6Y7NnSY2ehHW0Q03GVYrLuU5VoIcEIMUMiPnCtd15m5fV0%3D>

A proposed bill that has many in Indiana talking. Considering a smoking ban. Whether to allow smoking in bars and casinos. Jake miller is live downtown with the latest. ~> the bill will be in a public policy committee talked about today and has to move out of that committee in order for lawmakers to vote on it. It passed the house in January



<http://insight3.vmsinfo.com/RtccProactiveReport.external?sp=StaO0%2FqvBNsJMgz30vs%2BZcAJa7p8RHCKV4DTa5BIznWUWFh1Ww4T7n00mloQzDq2aqBZ4LjizEeEarT1MBRwG7FoIcEIMUMiPnCtd15m5fV0%3D>

April 6, 2011 7:00 a.m. broadcast

The state house public hearings are scheduled for a number of controversial bills. One would make it impossible for licensed gun owners to carry weapons in public places and there is a proposal on a statewide smoking ban



<http://insight3.vmsinfo.com/RtccProactiveReport.external?sp=StaO0%2FqvBNsJMgz30vs%2BZcAJa7p8RHCKV4DTa5BIznWWoVf4Sm0chCgKcJLsHE6Y7JCDu3Kb7WxfGjseOUV3R5VoIcEIMUMiPnCtd15m5fV0%3D>

April 6, 2011 6:00 a.m. broadcast

An important vote today on a smoking ban measure in Indiana... A senate committee will vote on the bill it excludes bars, current bill. Other casinos and establishments from the ban on smoking in public places... The senate committee says there will be no changes at this point...and the bill as it stands will be voted on today. If passed, it goes to the full senate.



<http://insight3.vmsinfo.com/RtccProactiveReport.external?sp=StaO0%2FqvBNsJMgz30vs%2BZcAJa7p8RHCKV4DTa5BlZnWWoVf4Sm0chCgKcJLsHE6Y7DbkOTtxkB6Q5HXL6xQZDgFolcEIMUMiPnCtd15m5fV0%3D>

April 6, 2011 6:00 a.m. broadcast

There's a big vote in an Indiana senate committee today on the statewide smoking ban. Could mean a full a yes vote today senate passage...the house has already passed a similar ban. Anti-smoking forces don't like it, though, saying the exemptions for bars, casinos... Even nursing the weakest homes...make it smoking ban in the nation.



<http://insight3.vmsinfo.com/RtccProactiveReport.external?sp=StaO0%2FqvBNsJMgz30vs%2BZcAJa7p8RHCKV4DTa5BlZnWWoVf4Sm0chCgKcJLsHE6Y7pUniapaWl4%2FXWiM7s5CtVoIcEIMUMiPnCtd15m5fV0%3D>

April 6, 2011 6:00 a.m. broadcast

A senate committee has scheduled a vote on a proposed statewide smoking ban. It includes exemptions for bars, casinos, private clubs, and nursing homes.



<http://insight3.vmsinfo.com/RtccProactiveReport.external?sp=StaO0%2FqvBNsJMgz30vs%2BZcAJa7p8RHCKV4DTa5BlZnWWoVf4Sm0chCgKcJLsHE6Y7umd7mExgzzIjNlnbKb2eSloIcEIMUMiPnCtd15m5fV0%3D>

April 6, 2011 6:00 a.m. broadcast

A proposed statewide smoking ban is expected to take the next step in the Indiana reports say a state general assembly. Sete committee plans to vote today on a bill to prohibit smoking in public places. Bars, casinos and nursing homes would be exempt. The house passedand sent the bill to the senate in January.



April 6, 2011 6:00 a.m. broadcast

<http://insight3.vmsinfo.com/RtccProactiveReport.external?sp=StaO0%2FqvBNsJMgz30vs%2BZcAJa7p8RHckV4DTa5BlZnWwoVf4Sm0chCgKcJLsHE6Y7q6ikKRPvBMY7Bue0Ddl7YloIcEIMUMiPnCtd15m5fV0%3D>

Senate committee has scheduled a vote on a proposed statewide smoking ban. If passed, the legislation would ban smoking in all public places except for bars, casinos, private clubs, and nursing homes.



<http://insight3.vmsinfo.com/RtccProactiveReport.external?sp=StaO0%2FqvBNsJMgz30vs%2BZcAJa7p8RHckV4DTa5BlZnWwoVf4Sm0chCgKcJLsHE6Y7Mt71aRNPDE6AHzxGK12dNFoIcEIMUMiPnCtd15m5fV0%3D>

April 6, 2011 6:00 a.m. broadcast

In Indianapolis a vote expected today to determine if a statewide smoking ban moves forward. Legislation that passed the house in January includes exceptions for casino, bars, fraternal clubs, smoke shops and nursing homes. Anti-smoking advocates pushed for a tougher bill at the state house. The chairman of the senate public policy committee warned, the lobbyists could kill the bill if they push for a comprehensive ban that does not.



<http://insight3.vmsinfo.com/RtccProactiveReport.external?sp=StaO0%2FqvBNsJMgz30vs%2BZcAJa7p8RHckV4DTa5BlZnWwoVf4Sm0chCgKcJLsHE6Y7ZR3bvUtdRDh%2BvtJd93hk9VoIcEIMUMiPnCtd15m5fV0%3D>

April 6, 2011 6:00 a.m. broadcast

a senate committee is expected to vote today on a state-wide smoking ban. Right now e bill doesn't include bars or taverns. Smoke free advocates are pushing to have bars included as a way to protect workers. Opponents say a full ban will hurt business.



<http://insight3.vmsinfo.com/RtccProactiveReport.external?sp=StaO0%2FqvBNsJMgz30vs%2BZcAJa7p8RHCKv4DTa5BlZnWWoVf4Sm0chCgKcJLsHE6Y7qOleGZzyj9ZvEWJBN81d51oIcEIMUMiPnCtd15m5fV0%3D>

April 6, 2011 6:00 a.m. broadcast

A proposed bill that has many smoking mad. Lawmakers considering a smoking ban once again. Whether to allow smoking in places like bars and casinos. Jake miller is live downtown with the latest. ~> this bill passed to move out of the senate committee in order3 to stay alive. Passed the house in January and Governor Daniels said he would sign it into law. The amendments will not be3 allowed to be included in the bill that currently includes exemptions for casinos and bs. If passed it would ban smoking in all public places. On Tuesday to200 demonstrators came to the3 state house to urge lawmakers to pass the law. American cancer society supports it. They were trying to show support for that. One man we spoke with knows the dangers of secondhand smoke. I have never smoked a3 cigarette in my life but at age 50 I got forestage throat cancer. From second-hand smoke in the workplace. Health advocates say a ban would protect all workers but critics worry casinos and bars would lose a big business



<http://insight3.vmsinfo.com/RtccProactiveReport.external?sp=StaO0%2FqvBNsJMgz30vs%2BZcAJa7p8RHCKv4DTa5BlZnWWoVf4Sm0chCgKcJLsHE6Y7sh67swL3u8pfWID41%2BTXW1oIcEIMUMiPnCtd15m5fV0%3D>

April 6, 2011 5:30 a.m. broadcast

The controversial smoking ban issue heads for a vote today. The senate public policy committee will take it up at the Indiana statehouse. Tuesday, some 200 volunteers with the American cancer

society spent the day urging members of the committee to pass house bill 10-18, the smokefree air bill, but with amendments. Lobbyists now want lawmakers to include bars and taverns which are now exempt. They say if the bill is passed in its current form employees in bars and taverns will not be protected. The bill cleared the house by a 68 to 31 vote in January.

<http://insight3.vmsinfo.com/RtccProactiveReport.external?sp=StaO0%2FqvBNsJMgz30vs%2BZcAJa7p8RHckV4DTa5BIznWWoVf4Sm0chCgKcJLsHE6Y7SDHN4nS5DgSD%2FXV%2BPyIGMloIcEIMUMiPnCtd15m5fV0%3D>

April 6, 2011 6:00 a.m. broadcast

Has created heated debate on both sides. Now a bill to strengthen Indiana's smoking ban is back in front of lawmakers.



<http://insight3.vmsinfo.com/RtccProactiveReport.external?sp=StaO0%2FqvBNsJMgz30vs%2BZcAJa7p8RHckV4DTa5BIznWWoVf4Sm0chCgKcJLsHE6Y7OE4qS6VMcCVuj1vfi%2FKYU1oIcEIMUMiPnCtd15m5fV0%3D>

April 6, 2011 5:00 a.m. broadcast

A senate committee has scheduled a vote on a proposed statewide smoking ban. It includes exemptions for bars, casinos, private clubs, and nursing homes.



<http://insight3.vmsinfo.com/RtccProactiveReport.external?sp=StaO0%2FqvBNsJMgz30vs%2BZcAJa7p8RHckV4DTa5BIznWW4ac127oXrMoK56TCVEDUjKiYJ%2Fj5yFTuxDNfCHcmvgVoIcEIMUMiPnCtd15m5fV0%3D>

April 6, 2011 10:00 p.m. broadcast

A so called smoking ban dies in the Indiana statehouse. But was it so watered down that it had little chance of passing? We take a closer look.



<http://insight3.vmsinfo.com/RtccProactiveReport.external?sp=StaO0%2FqvBNsJMgz30vs%2BZcAJa7p8RHCKV4DTa5BIZnWVLPZ8MIok%2Fd4g77JjKB6Rgo9eRw8%2FRZisq8fNiUJkcwFoIcEIMUMiPnCtd15m5fV0%3D>

April 7, 2011 5:00 a.m. broadcast

A potential state-wide smoking ban gets state-wide smoking ban gets snuffed out. The bill fails at the statehouse, after a surprising turn the group that of events.

<http://insight3.vmsinfo.com/RtccProactiveReport.external?sp=StaO0%2FqvBNsJMgz30vs%2BZcAJa7p8RHCKV4DTa5BIZnWXHmX3wqSeRLYbOPUpG3EqZycdrs8emvsOiNwnTZKvKBloIcEIMUMiPnCtd15m5fV0%3D>

April 7, 2011 9:00 a.m. broadcast

A major roadblock in the statewide smoking ban. It did not make it out of committee in the senate. Some senators believe the American cancer society is to blame. They would not support a bill that contained exclusions. Bars and casinos were excluded



<http://insight3.vmsinfo.com/RtccProactiveReport.external?sp=StaO0%2FqvBNsJMgz30vs%2BZcAJa7p8RHCKV4DTa5BIZnWVLPZ8MIok%2Fd4g77JjKB6Rg%2BtrTfJ5uGegYRxbtAU%2BSFVoIcEIMUMiPnCtd15m5fV0%3D>

April 7, 2011 7:00 a.m. broadcast

An Indiana senate panel voted down a proposed statewide smoking ban. The committee voted 8-1 against the bill. It had exemptions that the American cancer society opposed, saying it would be one of the weakest in the country. The governor said he would sign a bill into law if the legislatures approved it.



<http://insight3.vmsinfo.com/RtccProactiveReport.external?sp=StaO0%2FqvBNsJMgz30vs%2BZcAJa7p8RHCKv4DTa5BIZnWVLPZ8MIok%2Fd4g77JjKB6RgeFNvWwIUv9sQ7cBOcyycCloIcEIMUMiPnCtd15m5fV0%3D>

April 7, 2011 6:00 a.m. broadcast

Well, don't count on Indiana to set up a statewide smoking ban. The latest push for one has been snuffed out. A state senate committee overwhelmingly rejected a house bill to prohibit smoking in public places, except for: bars, casinos, private clubs and smoke shops. Many of the bill's opponents were non-smoking advocates, including the American cancer society, who felt the exemptions would have made such a ban too weak. And even without a smoking ban, a Fort Wayne mother is still crusading to get the word out about lung cancer. Anita Deselm's 20-year old daughter, Jennifer, died 6-years ago of lung cancer. Doctors never officially determined how she developed it, but most believe it was exposure to second-hand smoke. Jennifer worked in smoky restaurants as a teen. When she found out it was going to be fatal, she made me promise, or asked me to promise to make sure I did whatever need to be done to make sure nobody suffered like she did.



<http://insight3.vmsinfo.com/RtccProactiveReport.external?sp=StaO0%2FqvBNsJMgz30vs%2BZcAJa7p8RHCKv4DTa5BIZnWVLPZ8MIok%2Fd4g77JjKB6RgUcMnqiAqukAcmnG2MErerFoIcEIMUMiPnCtd15m5fV0%3D>

April 7, 2011 5:00 a.m. broadcast

An Indiana senate panel has voted down a proposed statewide smoking ban. The senate public policy committee voted 8-to-1 against the bill. It had exemptions for casinos. Bars. Fraternal clubs.. Smoke shops and even nursing homes. The American cancer society also opposed the ban on the grounds it would be one of the weakest in the country. Governor Daniels said he would sign a statewide smoking ban into law if legislators approved it.



<http://insight3.vmsinfo.com/RtccProactiveReport.external?sp=StaO0%2FqvBNsJMgz30vs%2BZcAJa7p8RHCKV4DTa5BIZnWVLPZ8MIOk%2Fd4g77JjKB6RgmuxI4vwoDoGEq9NiegOtK1oIcEIMUMiPnCtd15m5fV0%3D>

April 7, 2011 5:00 a.m. broadcast

Rejected a proposed statewide an Indiana senate committee has smoking ban, by a vote of 8-to-one. The bill would have provided several exemptions, and some committee members say they support broader restrictions.

<http://insight3.vmsinfo.com/RtccProactiveReport.external?sp=StaO0%2FqvBNsJMgz30vs%2BZcAJa7p8RHCKV4DTa5BIZnWVLPZ8MIOk%2Fd4g77JjKB6RgpEfnpQg1jhQW1ppiUCYyuFoIcEIMUMiPnCtd15m5fV0%3D>

April 7, 2011 5:00 a.m. broadcast

n Indiana senate committee has rejected a proposed statewide smoking ban. The bill would have provided exemptions for casinos, bars, fraternal club smoke shops and nursing homes. The full Indiana house approved it but the senate public policy committee rejected it Wednesday by a vote of 8-to-one. Several members say they support broader restrictions on smoking in public places. The American cancer society also opposed the ban, saying it would have been one of the weakest in the country.



<http://insight3.vmsinfo.com/RtccProactiveReport.external?sp=StaO0%2FqvBNsJMgz30vs%2BZcAJa7p8RHCKV4DTa5BIZnWVLPZ8MIOk%2Fd4g77JjKB6RgUWdYmPQ0sDup2PDzef3Ep1oIcEIMUMiPnCtd15m5fV0%3D>

April 7, 2011 5:00 a.m. broadcast

don't count on Indiana to set smoking ban. Up a statewide the latest push for one has been snuffed out. A state senate committee overwhelming rejected a house bill to prohibit places,

except for: smoking in public bars, casinos, private clubs and smoke shops. Many of the bill's opponents were non-smoking advocates, including the American cancer society, who felt the exemptions would have made such a ban too weak. And even without a smoking ban, a Fort Wayne mother is still crusading to get the word out about lung cancer. Anita Deselm's 20-year old daughter, Jennifer, died 6-years ago of lung cancer. Doctors never officially determined how she developed it, but most believe it was exposure to second-hand smoke. Jennifer worked in smoky restaurants as a teen. When she found out it was going to be fatal, she made me promise, or asked me to promise to make sure I did whatever need to be done to make sure nobody suffered like she did.



<http://insight3.vmsinfo.com/RtccProactiveReport.external?sp=StaO0%2FqvBNsJMgz30vs%2BZcAJa7p8RHckV4DTa5BIznWVLPZ8MIok%2Fd4g77JjKB6Rg%2BtoMUCdGoiccJwJQ0ETrUloIcEIMUMiPnCtd15m5fV0%3D>

April 7, 2011 5:00 a.m. broadcast

A watered-down statewide smoking ban is dead in an Indiana senate committee.. The bill which would have excluded bars, fraternal clubs, smoke shops, nursing homes and casinos was voted down eight to one yesterday in the public policy committee. Lawmakers said it wouldn't have made much difference to pass a ban with that many exemptions.... But the head of the committee wouldn't allow the exemptions to be removed...because s it was the only chance of getting passed. Governor Daniels has said he would like to see a smoking ban approved for the Hoosier state.



Senate leader declares smoking ban dead for year

http://www.nwitimes.com/news/local/govt-and-politics/article_e77d6a47-dbf9-530a-95f4-12fb41499cc5.html

By: Dan Carden

April 17, 2011

Circulation: 83,877

INDIANAPOLIS | The leader of the Indiana Senate has declared the proposed statewide indoor smoking ban dead, despite recent efforts by a region lawmaker to salvage his proposal in the waning days of the legislative session.

"We're finished with the issue in the Senate this year, but we're open to considering that next year," said Senate President David Long, R-Fort Wayne.

House Bill 1018, which would have prohibited smoking in all indoor public places except bars, casinos, private clubs, tobacco shops and nursing homes, was defeated 8-1 in a Senate committee earlier this month. It was sponsored by state Rep. Charlie Brown, D-Gary.

Some committee members said they preferred a comprehensive smoking ban with no exemptions, while others said state government shouldn't be dictating whether businesses can allow smoking.

Long, like Brown, said he was flabbergasted the American Cancer Society urged senators to vote against a smoking ban if it contained exemptions.

"The advocates have to understand that sometimes you've got to take a small step forward to achieve your ultimate goals," Long said. "That wasn't the case this year, and that doesn't work very well on this issue or any other issue."

"They had a pretty workable bill there that would have expanded nonsmoking in the state significantly," he said.

This was the first time in five tries that Long allowed a House-approved smoking ban to be heard by a Senate committee. Gov. Mitch Daniels said if the Senate approved the measure, he would sign the smoking ban into law.

Since the committee vote, Brown has been working behind the scenes trying to insert the smoking ban into other legislation moving through the General Assembly.

But Long said even if Brown is successful, the full Senate will not approve a smoking ban this year.

Long said he will permit a Senate committee hearing and vote on a smoking ban next year if one comes over from the House.

In the meantime, Long said he expects more Indiana communities will enact local indoor smoking bans.

According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Indiana ranks fifth in the nation for percentage of adult smokers with 23.2 percent of Hoosiers lighting up.



WYIN-TV CH 56

<http://insight3.vmsinfo.com/RtccProactiveReport.external?sp=StaO0%2FqvBNsJMgz30vs%2BZcAJa7p8RHCKV4DTa5BlZnWVGQ6hDjSU1cNC8s%2FBX1GrePYy11VSJ1rwL9ErQ7tGki1oIcEIMUMiPnCtd15m5fV0%3D>

April 18, 2011 9:00PM Broadcast

Smokers in the Hoosier state can breathe a sigh of relief tonight thanks to some Indiana lawmakers. The times reports; Senate president David Long declared today that a statewide indoor smoking ban will not be approved this year. Despite the efforts of state representative Charlie Brown of Gary who sponsored the bill. A senate committee defeated the smoking ban in an eight to one vote earlier this month. Some committee members say the bill allowed too many exemptions for places such as bars and casinos, while other simply opposed to the idea.



WMAQ-TV CH 5

<http://insight3.vmsinfo.com/RtccProactiveReport.external?sp=StaO0%2FqvBNsJMgz30vs%2BZcAJa7p8RHCKV4DTa5BlZnWWuCVdtNNDly2rrXjg5Ecbc74zIyr1vSb8ktWZipojk3loIcEIMUMiPnCtd15m5fV0%3D>

April 18, 2011 6:00AM broadcast

The leader of the Indiana state senate declares a proposed statewide smoking ban dead for now. Senate president David Long says the body is finished with the issue this year. He doesn't rule out taking the issue back up in the next legislative session. The bill will prohibit smoking in indoor public places except casinos, bars, private clubs, tobacco shops and nursing homes.



<http://insight3.vmsinfo.com/RtccProactiveReport.external?sp=StaO0%2FqvBNsJMgz30vs%2BZcAJa7p8RHckV4DTa5BlZnWWkk%2B9BiwopjVWwZeog5qwkQyCBfq2gO89qPgCxjXjljVoiCeiMUMiPnCtd15m5fV0%3D>

April 22, 2011 5:00AM broadcast

For today's health minute, I'm Nanette Sosa. Southern states lag in adopting smoking ban laws... According to a government report. The national centers for disease control and prevention says more than half of states have enacted smoking bans in private workplaces, restaurants and bars in the past decade. Seven states including Indiana and Kentucky have no laws banning smoking in any of these places. Only three have laws banning smoking in at least the workplace, restaurants or bars. No southern state has a smoke-free law covering all three areas. The CDC says that leaves about eighty-eight million nonsmokers still exposed to secondhand smoke. Researchers say if trends continue the nation could be one hundred percent smoke-free by two thousand twenty.



<http://insight3.vmsinfo.com/RtccProactiveReport.external?sp=StaO0%2FqvBNsJMgz30vs%2BZcAJa7p8RHckV4DTa5BlZnWWkk%2B9BiwopjVWwZeog5qwkTulpaTmgOT69Rj%2BIJtY3F1oIcEIMUMiPnCtd15m5fV0%3D>

April 22, 2011 6:00AM broadcast

Indiana does not have a statewide smoking ban, though some individual counties and cities do prohibit smoking in public places. Some people would like to see that changed, starting with a local college. According to the state, about 50 Indiana colleges and universities are tobacco free. IPFW in Fort Wayne is not one of them.. And the school's chancellor says the system that's in place there right now is working.



<http://insight3.vmsinfo.com/RtccProactiveReport.external?sp=StaO0%2FqvBNsJMgz30vs%2BZcAJa7p8RHCKv4DTa5BlZnWVIC26mR4wvPS35JW1z9QKyLSSOSdvYqFcqUkfEPeKWmFolcEIMUMiPnCtd15m5fV0%3D>

April 22, 5:00AM broadcast

In the health key this morning: Despite reluctance to pass a state-wide smoking ban here in Indiana, the CDC predicts the entire country will have some sort of ban in place by 20-20. In the past 10 years, 25 states have jumped on the non-smoking bandwagon. And the CDC says at the rate we're going, the rest of the country will fall into place. Still, despite the increase in these laws, more than 88 million non-smokers in the US are exposed to second hand smoke each year.