

Smokefree Air Media Report – April 8, 2011

Articles that quote coalition members or mention the coalition



Indiana smoking ban advocates push cause at New Albany event

<http://www.courier-journal.com/article/20110324/NEWS02/303240078/1001/Indiana-smoking-ban-advocates-push-cause-New-Albany-event?odyssey=mod|newswell|text|Home|s>

By: Harold J Adams

March 24, 2011

Circulation: 218,796

With a proposed statewide smoking ban awaiting state Senate action, a group of ban advocates met Thursday in New Albany for a panel presentation on their cause.

The event, billed as a town hall meeting, featured five panelists and moderator Karla Sneegas, executive director of the Indiana Tobacco Prevention and Cessation Agency. All were ban supporters, and the gathering was hosted at Cancer Care Center by Floyd County Tobacco Prevention and Cessation.

Panelist Lindsay Grace of the American Lung Association said Indiana is “the ashtray of the Midwest.”

“We really are becoming surrounded by smoke-free states and cities,” Grace said, including Michigan, Ohio, Illinois, Minnesota and Iowa, along with Louisville and Lexington in Kentucky.

Nationally, depending on whose count you use, she said, 23 to 29 states covering 63 percent of the U.S. population have workplace smoking bans that do not allow for exceptions or designated smoking areas.

There are 12 local smoke-free areas in Indiana such as Bloomington, West Lafayette and Elkhart that cover 8.7 percent of the state’s population, Grace said. Closer to home, Jeffersonville has a public smoking ban while proposed bans have been defeated in New Albany and Clarksville.

The statewide proposal in Indiana, House Bill 1018, contains exceptions for such places as bars, casinos, private clubs and horse racing facilities. Unlike previous bans passed by the House, this

one “for the first time ever” received a hearing Wednesday in the Senate Public Policy Committee, Grace said.

She said a committee vote is expected next Wednesday.

The American Lung Association and other ban advocates oppose the exceptions in the bill, Grace said, “so it is our hope that we get it cleaned up and put bars and taverns back in and tighten up some other language.”

The usual ban advocates have been joined by One Southern Indiana, the chamber of commerce for Floyd and Clark counties.

One Southern Indiana Chairman Kevin Hammersmith said the organization supports a statewide smoking ban “in recognition of the message that it sends that Indiana values the health of its citizens.”

He said the organization feels “that there’s a direct correlation between no smoking and companies that look to come to Indiana for their workers.”



Health department wants smoking banned in public places

<http://www.wfie.com/story/14323759/health-department-weighs-in-on-smoking-ban>

By: Lorilyn Prestidge

March 25, 2011

GIBSON CO., IN (WFIE) - A state wide smoking ban is being debated at Indiana's Capital, and local counties are now weighing in on it.

Friday, Gibson County's Health Department held a press conference about the bill.

The bill in it's current form has exemptions for casinos, bar and other establishments.

Gibson County health officials want to see a ban for all public places.

On Wednesday, the senate public policy committee heard hours of testimony on that House Bill, but didn't make any progress.

Representatives for and against the bill are not meeting common ground on whether the bill should have exemptions.

The Gibson County Health Department is asking it's residents to speak to their representatives and push for a state wide ban everywhere.

"Those workers in casinos, bars, even in nursing homes like I say they don't have a choice. That's where they work, that's their job they shouldn't have to be exposed to second-hand smoke," Jennifer Schatz of the Gibson Co. Health Department.

Some representatives have said they would like the legislation to go to the full senate in it's current form, because changes would require house approval which is stalled right now because of the Democrats walkout.



Indiana Senate works as House standoff continues

<http://www.courier-journal.com/article/20110326/COLUMNISTS07/303260075/Lesley-Stedman-Weidenbener-Indiana-Senate-works-House-standoff-continues?odyssey=mod|newswell|text|Home|s>

By: Lesley Stedman Weidenbener

March 26, 2011

Circulation: 218,796

INDIANAPOLIS – With the Indiana House Democrats' walkout dominating state legislative news of late, it's been easy to lose focus on the state Senate, which has been busily working on legislation – including that which has stalled in the House.

Here's an update:

The House-passed smoking ban (more on that term later) is currently in limbo. A Senate committee considered the legislation – which would prohibit smoking in workplaces except in casinos, bars, clubs, and some areas of nursing homes – but didn't vote.

Senate Public Policy Chairman Ron Alting, R-Lafayette, said he'll decide soon whether the committee will take a vote. But he said it could only pass the Senate with the same wide exemptions that have left some health advocates frustrated.

If the Senate passes the bill without amendment, it would go to Republican Gov. Mitch Daniels, who has said he could sign a smoking ban into law if the General Assembly passed it.

Now, about that term “ban.” The Indiana Tobacco Prevention and Cessation agency is trying to get folks to stop using the word in favor of the term “policy.”

“There is a difference,” the agency writes. “It’s not simply semantics.”

It goes on to say that “protecting Hoosiers from the dangers of secondhand smoke is a public health issue that does not ban smoking. Smokers have the legal right to smoke.” Instead, the agency says, the proposal sets “certain restrictions and guidelines” on smoking.

I would argue that those guidelines and restrictions – that “policy” – would indeed be a ban on smoking in restaurants and other workplaces, with the exceptions noted above.

I will acknowledge that referring to the legislation as the “smoking ban” is oversimplifying, but shorthand is common when referring to bills. I trust most Hoosiers know the proposal won’t stop them from smoking in their own homes (although I suspect they fear that could come in the future).

Meanwhile, the charter schools bill – among the proposals that House Democrats don’t like – is now eligible for consideration by the full Senate.

It’s undergone a number of changes since the House passed it last month. But the goal remains the same: Increasing the number of charter schools in the state and therefore students who attend them.

The plan would now allow private universities and a new, statewide board to authorize new charters, which are public schools that are not bound by the same state regulations and are typically free of the traditional district hierarchy. Senate committees have removed language requiring traditional districts to share their money for busing and allowing small city mayors to create the schools in their communities.

Because this bill has undergone changes, though, it will be subject to the whims of the Democrats and their walkout. That’s because it would still need another vote in the House, which still doesn’t have a quorum to conduct business.

I think it’s worth mentioning the texting and driving bill here. It failed in the Senate after an amendment that would have banned drivers from making and receiving phone calls. It’s an amendment some think was meant to tank the legislation, although its supporters said that talking on the phone is as distracting as texting.

The Senate had previously passed a bill that bans (there’s that word again) texting and driving but it’s now mired in the House walkout. It’s not clear whether that proposal will be revived this year.

Finally, the Senate Appropriations Committee has been working on a budget plan, which it must amend into another bill because – you guessed it – the original budget bill is stuck in the House.

Budget hearings will continue this week. At 4 p.m. Monday, the committee will consider spending on Medicaid, the Department of Corrections and the courts.

At 4 p.m. on Tuesday, the committee will hear presentations from the state's colleges and universities and at 9 a.m. Thursday the group will take two more hours of public testimony on the budget.

Those hearings are scheduled to be broadcast on the Internet. You can watch by going to in.gov/legislative, where you can also look up bills and see how to contact lawmakers.

Bloomberg

Ind. official: Smoking ban bill needs exemptions

<http://www.businessweek.com/ap/financialnews/D9M5KGT80.htm>

By: Deanna Martin

March 26, 2011

Health advocates will have to live with wide exemptions in a proposed statewide smoking ban because a stricter, more comprehensive ban wouldn't be able to pass the conservative Indiana Senate, the head of a Senate committee said.

Sen. Ron Alting, R- Lafayette, said the bill has its best shot in years of passing because of exemptions for casinos, bars, clubs and even nursing homes.

"When I got elected 13 years ago, the advocates that want all or nothing are still here 13 years later with nothing," Alting said.

But health advocates told the Senate Public Policy Committee that Alting chairs that they wanted a more comprehensive smoking ban that would protect all workers, even those who work in casinos and bars.

Alice Curry of Columbus said she was diagnosed in 2009 with stage 4 lung cancer despite having never smoked and not having a family history of cancer. She wonders if time spent years ago in smoky teachers' lounges and sales offices contributed to the cancer and told lawmakers on the committee they have a responsibility to protect workers.

"Every person working and living in Indiana needs your help or they're going to end up fighting the battle that I'm fighting right now," she said, wiping away tears. "Every worker in Indiana

should have the ability to work in a job that doesn't make them sick, or worse, kill them -- especially when we know how to avoid it."

The Senate committee didn't vote on the proposal Wednesday, and Alting said he'll decide later whether to take a vote after talking to advocates.

Bill sponsor Rep. Charlie Brown, D-Gary, said he wants something passed this year but wants at least some of the exemptions removed.

"I am still hopeful that we can eliminate a couple of those exemptions," Brown said.

Removing the exemptions could complicate the legislation, however, because of a boycott by House Democrats. Any amended bill would have to go back to the House for approval, and if Democrats remain out long term that could jeopardize the bill.

Brown said he didn't think the walkout made it more difficult for him to shepherd the legislation through the General Assembly, and Alting welcomed Brown back to the Statehouse at the committee meeting Wednesday.

Sen. Brent Waltz, R-Greenwood, did criticize Brown for the boycott, saying that the walkout could cause some bills to die, including one of his that he considers important. He said the Senate was dealing with Brown's bill, but that so many other bills "will languish and very likely fail because of the actions of you and your colleagues in the House."

Brown said Democrats believe they are sticking up for their constituents.

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 cash-strapped 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.

Local supporters want smoking ban passed with no more exemptions

<http://www.courierpress.com/news/2011/mar/29/health-advocates-prefer-delay-over-weakened-bill/>

By: Mark Wilson

March 29, 2011

Circulation: 52,721

EVANSVILLE — Local supporters of a statewide smoking ban said Monday they are willing to support legislation enabling it even with an exemption for casinos.

However, they would rather see it killed than passed with other exemptions, including for bars, private clubs and nursing homes.

"Legislation is the art of the possible," said Patty Avery, an American Cancer Society volunteer and former candidate for state senate.

Avery was one of several representatives from health organizations who held a news conference Monday at the Vanderburgh County Health Department to call attention to the bill.

House Bill 1018 has been on hold in the state Senate because the walkout by Indiana House Democrats last month left no quorum to conduct business, including the hearing of bills in conference committee where the smoking ban could be amended. Democrats returned to the House on Monday night.

The Senate Public Policy Committee heard testimony on the bill last week but delayed any action on amendments to it. The Senate could choose to amend the bill, kill it or send it on as it is for Gov. Mitch Daniels to sign into law.

But health advocates said Monday they would prefer to try again next year rather than for the bill to become law with so many exemptions.

"House Bill 1018 started out as a bill that would protect all workers, but we see it as severely weakened at this point," said Martha Caine, executive director of Smokefree Communities of Vanderburgh County.

She noted advocates have been working to achieve a comprehensive statewide smoking ban for 10 years but they couldn't support one that protected some workers but not others.

"We are tired of being the ashtray of the Midwest," Caine said.



Senate committee might vote on smoking ban

<http://www.indystar.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=2011103300326>

By: Heather Gillers

March 30, 2011

Circulation: 182,933

The head of the Indiana Senate's Public Policy Committee said Tuesday night that he might call a vote on the proposed state smoking ban, even though he said earlier in the day that he would not.

"I'll retract what I said -- that the bill is dead -- and just try to continue to keep an open mind," said Sen. Ron Alting, R-Lafayette.

Alting said the committee could vote on the bill at its April 6 meeting. He said he likely would not allow amendments.

The current version of the bill, which the House passed on Jan. 31, would exempt bars, and that exception caused the controversy that led Alting to consider letting the bill die. He said he feels trapped because the American Cancer Society will not support the bill if it allows smoking in bars. But he doesn't think the House and Senate will approve the bill if it bans smoking in bars.

"I hate to go against the people that work in that field the most and what they stand for," said Alting, whose wife died of breast cancer. "I'm just living in the real world. If you want a bill to go through that affects the workplace and the restaurants, this is the best bill you're going to get."

The bill's author, Rep. Charlie Brown, D-Gary, said he thinks a version of the bill that includes bars would squeak through the House and Senate -- and he wants to see the legislation amended to include them.

"It would be a very narrow majority," Brown said, "but no one counts after the 26 or the 51."



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.

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.



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.



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.



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.



Smoking-Ban Backers 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.



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.

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."



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 Altig 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.



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.

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 sai



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.



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 go.



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.



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.



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.

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

Circulation: 182,933

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.



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>

April 7, 2011

Circulation: 182,933

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.

Bloomberg Businessweek

Indiana Senate panel rejects proposed smoking ban

<http://www.businessweek.com/ap/financialnews/D9MES87O1.htm>

By: Tom Davies

April 7, 2011

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.

General Smokefree Air Articles



New evidence bolsters smoking ban

<http://tribstar.com/opinion/x106227244/Tribune-Star-editorial-New-evidence-bolsters-smoking-ban>

March 25, 2011

Circulation: 21,479

TERRE HAUTE — Legislation to institute a statewide smoking ban — even in its watered-down form that grants numerous exemptions — is still alive in the Indiana General Assembly. But it's on life support.

The compromise measure has already passed the House, and it received a Senate hearing this week. But there is no guarantee the chair of that Senate committee will even call the bill for a vote.

Despite its weakened chances for passage this year, and despite the exemptions that would make it far from comprehensive, the concept of a statewide smoking ban continues to gather support.

This week, Indiana University researchers released results of a study that shows that one community's smoke-free air had no effect on economic activity at an off-track betting facility.

One of the principle points of opposition to comprehensive smoking bans is that it would be bad for businesses such as bars, private clubs, casinos or other gambling outlets. Those types of businesses are currently exempt in the bill making its way through the Legislature.

The study found that a no-smoking law implemented in Fort Wayne didn't hurt business at its OTB venue. The study looked at the amount gamblers spent at three OTB venues from 2002 to 2009. The facilities included the smoke-free one in Fort Wayne and two venues that allow smoking in Indianapolis and Merrillville.

Research showed per capita spending declined at a similar rate for all three venues and that the overall economic downturn was to blame.

Jon Macy, the study's lead author, said past studies had shown smoke-free laws don't have a negative effect on businesses, but the study is one of the first to demonstrate such laws don't hurt gaming venues either.

“Given the well-established negative health consequences of secondhand smoke exposure, strong policies should be enacted to protect workers and patrons at gaming facilities from exposure to secondhand smoke,” the authors wrote.

Terre Haute can be proud of the comprehensive smoke-free air ordinance its City Council passed earlier this year. Although it won't take effect for more than a year, it is on the way and will enhance public health. Any effort to weaken its scope should be vigorously opposed.

Workplace health is an important issue, and secondhand smoke compromises that. Being forced

to make a decision between working in a healthy environment and drawing a paycheck should happen to no one.



Law that grants exceptions can be an ugly tool – The rules should unite us all as equals, not divide us arbitrarily

<http://www.news-sentinel.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20110325/EDITORIAL/103250328>

March 25, 2011

There is a concept called “grandfathering” under which current participants remain unaffected by new laws, which apply only to new participants. That is a good use of exemptions; people have to know the rules to live by, and without grandfathering the rules change in the middle of the game.

Otherwise, exempting certain people or groups from a law isn't a very good idea. And the more exemptions there are, the more the law is suspect.

Consider the “comprehensive” smoking ban being considered by the Indiana General Assembly, which is anything but. Smoking bans often allow an exception or two – in Indianapolis, for example, a restaurant can choose to serve only adults, in which case it can allow smoking, or also serve children, in which case it can't. But the state ban is loaded with exceptions: casinos, bars, private clubs, nursing homes.

This invites skeptics to ask exactly what the purpose of the law is. If it's to protect employees from the harmful effects of secondhand smoke, why do workers in casinos, bars, private clubs and nursing homes deserve less protection than workers elsewhere? Since when does a company's claim that it might lose money trump people's right not to be sickened? If secondhand smoke is bad, isn't it bad for everybody?

Another question that comes up: If such and such a law is so beneficial, why wouldn't it be beneficial for everyone? This comes up a lot in discussion of Obamacare, the year-old legislation almost nationalizing America's health care.

The list of companies given one-year waivers for certain requirements of the law, such as a mandate to carry insurance or face a penalty, has now grown to more than 1,000. Now, entire states are being added. Maine is getting a *three-year* exemption. Democratic Rep. Anthony

Weiner of New York, one of the prime supporters of Obamacare, says because of New York City's unique health care infrastructure, a waiver makes sense for that city.

But we're all unique, aren't we? That's why the one-size-fits-all approach of Obamacare was wrong to begin with. Weiner's "good for thee but not for me" application of the law is guaranteed to breed cynicism about this law and contempt for the law in general.

The law is a beautiful tool to unite us all as equal citizens. If we all have to follow the same rules all the time, we feel an equal sense of protection, which generates an equal sense of loyalty. But when the law is used to divide us – by punishing some and rewarding others in arbitrary or capricious ways – it can be an ugly weapon.



Smoking bill up for a vote next week

<http://www.14wfie.com/story/14336972/smoking-bill-up-for-a-vote-next-week>

By: Kelsey Wheatcroft

March 28, 2011

EVANSVILLE, IN (WFIE) - Members of the smoke free communities of southern Indiana sent a message to Hoosier lawmakers: they want and will keep pushing for tougher laws to protect workers from secondhand smoke.

A bill is up for a vote next week.

Members of the smoke free communities say the bill isn't strong enough, because there are exemptions that include bars, and casinos.

Besides bars and casino, if this bill passes, it would also allow smoking in nursing homes and tobacco shops.

Although a vote is scheduled, it could still be put off if supporters can't agree on the limited restrictions.

Without committee approval, the bill won't make it to the full Senate.



<http://insight3.vmsinfo.com/RtccProactiveReport.external?sp=StaO0%2FqvBNsJMgz30vs%2BZcAJa7p8RHCKV4DTa5BIZnWWuQCTt%2Br7ff%2BBxnCtsgZzPt%2FtCgzWgJyhDH5F7EwV9tFoIcEIMUMiPnCtd15m5fV0%3D>

March 28, 2011

5:00pm broadcast

We'll show you what one Evansville groups doing to support a public smoking ban across the state of Indiana. : every year, 12-hundred Hoosiers die second-hand smoke. That word from advocates for a smoke-free work environment who say they want to send a message to the Indiana senate committee. They want legislators to pass a bill to keep smokers from putting others at risk through second by July, we will have a comprehensive smoke-free workplace ordinance in Vanderburgh County and we're hoping state legislators will take the lead off what they have been able to accomplish in Vanderburgh County. Shelley a senate committee leaders says the health advocates will have to live with a wide list of exemptions when it comes to the smoking ban, including casinos and bars.



<http://insight3.vmsinfo.com/RtccProactiveReport.external?sp=StaO0%2FqvBNsJMgz30vs%2BZcAJa7p8RHCKV4DTa5BIZnWXIPS3pO4UVFaVDKcseUGWIWqN7gUKaKYxCC3iMF5Po2VoIcEIMUMiPnCtd15m5fV0%3D>

March 29, 2011

6:30pm broadcast

While the Indiana house didn't get much done this past month the Indiana senate continued to meet. It has taken on controversial issue such as same sex marriages and state wide smoking bans. State senator Jim Tomes joins our own Les Shively and our new co-host mike woods to talk about those and other issues.



<http://insight3.vmsinfo.com/RtccProactiveReport.external?sp=StaO0%2FqvBNsJMgz30vs%2BZcAJa7p8RHCKV4DTa5BlZnWXsvdmVn1fatsethePJCcjQ%2Fku5%2BN0L2Thd4oah2FI491oIcEIMUMiPnCtd15m5fV0%3D>

March 29, 2011

6:00am broadcast

Indianapolis health advocates are urging lawmakers to protect all Indiana workers from secondhand smoke... Including those who work in bars and taverns. A senate committee is expected to vote this week on a statewide smoking ban. But as it stands... It would not apply to private clubs, bars and taverns and casinos. Opponents say banning smoking at bars, taverns and casinos will be bad for business.



<http://insight3.vmsinfo.com/RtccProactiveReport.external?sp=StaO0%2FqvBNsJMgz30vs%2BZcAJa7p8RHCKV4DTa5BlZnWWSLLXfU0znZPDM7dgR72T9tKsiHSXPJoxsfovcMNSQVoIcEIMUMiPnCtd15m5fV0%3D>

March 29, 2011

7:00am broadcast

Supporters of a comprehensive statewide smoking ban in Indiana say they are willing to compromise for now. Smokefree Communities of Vanderburgh County says it and groups like it have been trying to pass a statewide smoking ban for 10 years. the current bill working its way through the legislature would exempt bars, nightclubs, private clubs, casinos, and nursing homes. It will likely come up for a vote in the senate public policy committee later this week. Smokefree Communities Executive Director Martha Caine says when it does, her group will *not* push to remove casinos and private clubs from the list of exempted spots. we're willing to make an exception, and we hate to say it that way, but we're really leaving behind all the casino workers, we're leaving behind private club members and workers, but we really cannot leave behind all of the workers that work in bars and nightclubs. Caine says her group is willing to make the

compromise to get the bill passed, but she says it would make a push later to extend smoking bans to places like casinos and private clubs.



Indiana Senate panel may vote on smoking ban after all

<http://www.ibj.com/senate-panel-may-vote-on-smoking-ban-after-all/PARAMS/article/26228>

March 29, 2011

Circulation: 14,779

The chairman of an Indiana Senate committee told a newspaper that he wouldn't call a critical vote on a proposed statewide smoking ban, but later told another newspaper that he changed his mind.

Sen. Ron Alting, R-Lafayette, told the *Post-Tribune* of Merrillville that the bill was dead for the year, then changed his mind.

"I'll retract what I said — that the bill is dead — and just try to continue to keep an open mind," Alting told *The Indianapolis Star*.

Alting said he might call for a vote on the proposal at the Senate Public Policy Committee's April 6 meeting, but that he likely wouldn't allow any amendments. The bill currently includes exemptions for casinos, bars, fraternal clubs, smoke shops and nursing homes, and conservative leaders say some of those loopholes are needed for the bill to pass the Republican-controlled Senate.

Alting gave the smoking ban bill its first Senate committee hearing last week. At that meeting, he warned the ban's supporters that they could kill the bill by lobbying for a comprehensive ban that doesn't include wide exemptions.

Alting told the *Post-Tribune* on Tuesday that lobbyists for groups such as the American Cancer Society and the American Heart Association pushed too hard to remove the exemptions. Alting said the advocates would prefer to have "zero percent of 100."

The bill cleared the House of Representatives in a 68-31 vote in January, and Republican Gov. Mitch Daniels has said he would sign it.

Health advocates want a bigger smoking ban that would protect all workers, even those who work in casinos and bars.

The exemptions for casinos and horse racing tracks were approved by the House after the nonpartisan Legislative Services Agency said banning smoking there could cost Indiana's cash-strapped coffers about \$190 million a year. The House later voted to exempt bars that only admit adults over age 21 after some lawmakers argued 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.



<http://insight3.vmsinfo.com/RtccProactiveReport.external?sp=StaO0%2FqvBNsJMgz30vs%2BZcAJa7p8RHckV4DTa5BlZnWXkJ20yWPTLP8jhiBj4J6qWxZecY5q18KXnlf45WS1%2Bu1oIcEIMUMiPnCtd15m5fV0%3D>

March 30, 2011

5am broadcast

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<http://insight3.vmsinfo.com/RtccProactiveReport.external?sp=StaO0%2FqvBNsJMgz30vs%2BZcAJa7p8RHckV4DTa5BlZnWVD05URgGUkaiBq1xI%2FV1iocgCDlqr5fIyIXL4CdZiWKFoIcEIMUMiPnCtd15m5fV0%3D>

March 30, 2011

6:00am broadcast

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<http://insight3.vmsinfo.com/RtccProactiveReport.external?sp=StaO0%2FqvBNsJMgz30vs%2BZcAJa7p8RHckV4DTa5BIznWXkJ20yWPTLP8jhiBj4J6qWzhONROfFy%2FFRskI1qYRh31oIcEIMUMiPnCtd15m5fV0%3D>

5:30am broadcast

March 30, 2011

A bill that would create a state-wide smoking ban may not be dead this legislative session, after all. The chairman of an Indiana senate committee had first said he would not hold a vote on the bill, but now says he has changed his mind. Senator Ron Alting said he might call for a vote on the proposal, but will likely not allow any amendments. The bill currently would ban smoking in all public places, except for casinos, bars and nursing homes.

<http://insight3.vmsinfo.com/RtccProactiveReport.external?sp=StaO0%2FqvBNsJMgz30vs%2BZcAJa7p8RHCKv4DTa5BIznWVD05URgGUKaiBq1xI%2FV1ioRI4xsdXOA9homaQNeR0RvloIcEIMUMiPnCtd15m5fV0%3D>

March 30, 2011

6:00am broadcast

It a statewide smoking ban bill may not be dead. Senator Ron Alting might call for a vote but would not allow amendments.

SouthBendTribune.com
Discover what's in it for you

Smoke-free

<http://www.southbendtribune.com/news/opinion/sbt-20110330sbtmicha-07-04-20110330,0,51325.story>

By: Bruce Knutson

March 30, 2011

Circulation: 62,482

No one should have to choose between a job and good health.

Michigan has had a smoke-free workplace law in effect for about nine months now. Isn't it time for Indiana to follow the lead?

When a business opens to the public, the owner is responsible for ensuring the establishment meets state and federal requirements designed to protect the employees and patrons. For example, prior to Michigan's smoke-free air law, restaurants and bars already were required to regulate food storage temperatures, bacteria levels, dishwashing water temperatures and more. Bars and restaurants must adhere to regulations just as citizens must adhere to laws designed to protect public safety. Such regulations are not only necessary and expected, but also demanded, by citizens.

Shouldn't all workers have protection from secondhand smoke? Nonsmoking bar and restaurant workers have a 50 percent higher risk of lung cancer than all other nonsmokers (JAMA, 1993). Secondhand smoke also causes heart disease, emphysema, asthma and other diseases.

Indiana Republican Sen. Joe Zakas has a chance right now to pass House Bill 1018 and allow Indiana to join the increasing number of smoke free states. Indiana residents are eager for this legislation to become law.



Vote on smoking law

<http://www.journalgazette.net/article/20110331/EDIT07/303319987/1021/EDIT>

By – Editorial

March 31, 2011

Circulation: 60,122

The fate of a statewide smoking law now rests in the hands of a senator who has threatened to kill the proposed anti-smoking bill single-handedly if cleaner-air advocates fight too hard to make it better.

Mind-boggling.

Republican Ron Alting of Lafayette, chair of the Senate Public Policy Committee, insists that any such law must have wide exemptions, and the current bill has a host: smoking would still be permitted in bars, casinos, horse tracks, OTBs, private clubs and even some areas of nursing homes.

On Tuesday, Alting said he would not allow the committee to vote on the bill – thus very likely killing it for the session – because the anti-smoking advocates fought too hard to eliminate exemptions.

Alting backtracked – somewhat – later Tuesday, saying, “I’ll retract what I said – that the bill is dead – and just try to continue to keep an open mind.” But he said only that he *might* allow a vote in committee next week and likely would not allow any amendments removing some exemptions.

The senator sang a far different tune just a week earlier when he touted the fact that his committee gave the bill a hearing, the first in the Senate for a statewide smoking law. “It’s important that we consider all sides of the debate and keep an open dialogue between all involved parties,” he said March 22.

Alting insists there is not enough support in the Senate to adopt a bill without the exemptions.

The simple way to find out – and the fairest – is to allow a committee vote, then send the bill to the Senate floor, where the majority will decide whether exemptions should stay or be removed.

Don't blame the House Democrats' walkout for the languishing bill. The House passed it 68-31, with the exemptions, before the walkout.

The best bill would ban smoking in all workplaces and anyplace open to the public, without exceptions. That is the fairest law and would go the furthest in protecting Hoosiers from deadly secondhand smoke. Lawmakers should go on record on such a bill.

But without a comprehensive law, the exemption-laden bill would still offer much more protection to the numerous Indiana communities that lack a smoking law. Something would be better than nothing.

The next step is a committee vote, and Alting should not prevent the full Senate from casting a ballot on this important issue.



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

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

Circulation: 182,933

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.



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.



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.



Smoking ban example of legislature at its worst

<http://www.pal-item.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=2011104070320>

April 6, 2011

Circulation: 17,000

Only days ago Republicans in the Indiana General Assembly were insisting that boycotting Democrats return to Indianapolis to "do the people's business."

Now that Democrats are back, as noted previously here, we leave it to voters to decide fault for the boycott or, perhaps more significantly, how well that business on behalf of the people is being done.

Indiana's years' old annual smoking ban legislation is an instructive case in point.

The need for a statewide law limiting or prohibiting smoking was obvious, against the current crazy quilt pattern of different local jurisdictions deciding the matter differently.

But it is hard to imagine any of them making a bigger mess of things than the state.

By the time the Indiana House finished its handiwork on House Bill 1018, Hoosiers were looking at a mockery of the law, a smoking ban that offered exemptions galore to about any interested party seeking an out.

There are, for example, exemptions for casinos, bars, fraternal clubs and smoke shops that smokers and owners and club members fought hard to attain. But just how nursing homes wound up on the list of exempted facilities is a little more baffling.

The Senate's Public Policy Committee chairman, Ron Alting, a Republican from Lafayette, did not permit senators to consider removing any of those exemptions, arguing that they were needed to patch together a coalition for passage of this measure.

In the end, he proved as wrong as the bill. Members of the committee voted 8-1 Wednesday against the bill, contending it served up too many exemptions.

Once the disturbing precedent is set of pandering to every interest seeking refuge from a smoking ban, where does the amending process end of exempting added places during coming legislative sessions?

Maybe it doesn't matter since the bill being protected by Sen. Alting already was dubbed by the American Cancer Society as one of the weakest in the country.

Oh, yes, did we mention that the American Cancer Society was among those lined up in opposition to this mockery of a real law?

Welcome back, legislators.

Whether that's back to the people's business we leave for voters to decide.



<http://insight3.vmsinfo.com/RtccProactiveReport.external?sp=StaO0%2FqvBNsJMgz30vs%2BZcAJa7p8RHCKv4DTa5BlZnWUWFh1Ww4T7n00mloQzDq2aNPUrTyaWAYGdp38hb2cSm1oIcEIMUMiPnCtd15m5fV0%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%2BZcAJa7p8RHCKv4DTa5BlZnWUWFh1Ww4T7n00mloQzDq2akhhI8cWPJu3qUvrhqHX7yloIcEIMUMiPnCtd15m5fV0%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%2BZcAJa7p8RHCKv4DTa5BlZnWUWFh1Ww4T7n00mloQzDq2aW7qVW5a%2Fua8XMhmOzmxblVVoIcEIMUMiPnCtd15m5fV0%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 have to 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 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%2BZcAJa7p8RHCKV4DTa5BIznWWoVf4Sm0chCgKcJLsHE6Y7DbkOTtxkB6Q5HXL6xQZDgFolcEIMUMiPnCtd15m5fV0%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%2BZcAJa7p8RHCKV4DTa5BIznWWoVf4Sm0chCgKcJLsHE6Y7pUiniapaWl4%2FXWiM7s5CtVolicEIMUMiPnCtd15m5fV0%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%2BZcAJa7p8RHCKv4DTa5BlZnWwoVf4Sm0chCgKcJLsHE6Y7umd7mExgzzIjNlnbKb2eSloIcEI MUMiPnCtd15m5fV0%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. The committee plans to vote today on a bill to prohibit smoking in public places. Bars, casinos and nursing homes would be exempt. The house passed and 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%2BZcAJa7p8RHCKv4DTa5BlZnWwoVf4Sm0chCgKcJLsHE6Y7q6ikKRPvBMY7Bue0Ddl7YloIc EIMUMiPnCtd15m5fV0%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%2BZcAJa7p8RHCKv4DTa5BlZnWwoVf4Sm0chCgKcJLsHE6Y7Mt71aRNPDE6AHzxGK12dNFoI cEIMUMiPnCtd15m5fV0%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%2BZcAJa7p8RHCKV4DTa5BIznWWoVf4Sm0chCgKcJLsHE6Y7ZR3bvUtdRDh%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%2BZcAJa7p8RHCKV4DTa5BIznWWoVf4Sm0chCgKcJLsHE6Y7qOleGZzyj9ZvEWJBN81d51oIcEIMUMiPnCtd15m5fV0%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 be allowed to be included in the bill that currently includes exemptions for casinos and bars. If passed it would ban smoking in all public places. On Tuesday about 200 demonstrators came to the 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 a 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%2BZcAJa7p8RHCKV4DTa5BlZnWWoVf4Sm0chCgKcJLsHE6Y7SDHN4nS5DgSD%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%2BZcAJa7p8RHCKV4DTa5BlZnWVoVf4Sm0chCgKcJLsHE6Y7OE4qS6VMcCVuj1vfI%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%2BZcAJa7p8RHCKV4DTa5BlZnWVLPZ8MIok%2Fd4g77JjKB6Rgo9eRw8%2FRZisq8fNiUJkcwFcEIMUMiPnCtd15m5fV0%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%2BZcAJa7p8RHCKV4DTa5BlZnWXHmX3wqSeRLYbOPUpG3EqZycdrs8emvsOiNwnTZKvKBloIcEIMUMiPnCtd15m5fV0%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%2BZcAJa7p8RHCKV4DTa5BlZnWVLPZ8MIOk%2Fd4g77JjKB6Rg%2BtrTfJ5uGegYRxbtAU%2BSFVoIcEIMUMiPnCtd15m5fV0%3D>

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

n 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%2BZcAJa7p8RHCKV4DTa5BlZnWVLPZ8MIOk%2Fd4g77JjKB6RgeFNvWwIUUV9sQ7cBOcyycCloIcEIMUMiPnCtd15m5fV0%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 overwhelming 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%2Fd4g77JjKB6RgUcMnqiAqkAcmnG2MErerFolcEIMUMiPnCtd15m5fV0%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%2Fd4g77JjKB6RgpEfnpOgljhQWlppiUCYyuFolcEIMUMiPnCtd15m5fV0%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%2BZcAJa7p8RHCKv4DTa5BlZnWVLPZ8MIOk%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 fails its state twice in one week

http://www.nwitimes.com/news/opinion/columnists/mark-kiesling/article_a754d34d-54ec-5d42-b5f1-d4619109f702.html

By: Mark Kiesling

April 8, 2011

Circulation: 83,877

Sometimes I wish the whole Indiana General Assembly would book rooms in Illinois and just stay there so they could avoid doing stupid things.

Within one week, the Senate has put its imprimatur on a constitutional ban on gay marriage, despite the fact we already have laws on the books banning such unions, and a committee of the same brain trust voted 8-1 Wednesday to kill a ban on smoking in certain public places.

I'm sick of all the garbage where we are told business owners should be free to decide whether they want to allow smoking. It's a proven health hazard, and the callous actions of the Senate committee show how dedicated they really are to improving the life expectancy of their constituents.

Of course, if voters live long enough they might see through the bull and vote the incumbents out, so there might be some method to the madness.

The attitude on both situations can pretty well be expressed by an anonymous (surprise!) comment on nwi.com.

"You know, Mark, I can explain to my kids why an adult male has a cigarette in his mouth a lot easier than explaining why he has another man's tongue in his mouth," wrote Deep Lake County last month.

Really? I'd think it would be the exact opposite. Here's my answer to Deep, whoever he or she might be.

The adult male with a cigarette in his mouth is sucking cancer-causing chemicals into his body and likely will die of lung, throat or esophageal cancer or emphysema.

Which is fine. An adult can make that choice and should be allowed to do so. But you cannot explain to your kid why that same person is free to exhale his toxic chemicals onto other people.

Don't give me "the business owner is free to make his own decisions," either. We have health inspectors who will shut him down in a New York second if they find a rat in the kitchen. Responsibility comes with owning a business, and that includes responsibility to your patrons and your staff.

Freedom? People who wish to eat, drink or otherwise make merry at the place of their choice should be more free than smokers, as they outnumber them in Indiana by about 5 to 1. So that argument fails.

As far as explaining to your kind why two men are kissing? It's not my cup of tea either, brother, but I can explain that while it is not my preference, certain people are "different" than the mainstream and that in America, at least thus far, we do not cut off hands or noses to express disagreement with moral choices.

Use the experience, Deep Lake County and others, to teach kids that people are different. You can tell your kids it's wrong, that it's a sin, that it is immoral or whatever your particular compass tells you. But it does not give you cancer, and it does not give you AIDS, in case your mind was wandering that way.

Yeah, let's ban something that is a private matter between two adults and continue to allow something else that kills thousands of people annually in the name of free enterprise.

Back to Urbana, Ill., folks, and take the GOP with you. At least you couldn't make Indiana look like a bunch of backward ignoramuses from there.



Smoke on: Indiana Senate committee rejects smoking ban

<http://www.courierpress.com/news/2011/apr/08/smoke-on-the-issue-indiana-senate-committee-ban/>

April 8, 2011

Circulation: 52,721

An Indiana Senate committee on Wednesday rejected by 8-1 a toothless statewide ban on smoking in some public places, probably killing it for the current session.

The truth be told, the smoking ban bill that was under consideration would not have accomplished all that much, as it would have granted exemptions to bars, casinos, nursing homes and certain clubs. Meanwhile, many other businesses and public places in Indiana have already banned smoking on their own, while some communities such as Evansville have banned smoking in public and work places, though not in bars, casinos and other places. Beginning July 1, smoking will be banned in bars and restaurants in Vanderburgh County, but only outside the city limits.

The Senate committee rejection of the statewide smoking ban was actually supported by the American Cancer Society and other antismoking advocates who said correctly that the exemptions included in the bill would have rendered it ineffective.

So, barring a surprise resurrection of the smoking issue later in the session, it seems likely lawmakers and lobbyists are going to be arguing again about smoking in the 2012 legislative session, and likely again, the key issue will be exemptions for bars and casinos.

It has long been thought that smoking bans hurt the casino business in those places which have banned it. That's critical because state and local governments in Indiana and elsewhere have become addicted to gambling revenues. To that, add bar owners who say it is unfair to allow

smoking in casinos, but to ban it in their establishments. To all of this, add recent reports which say smoking bans may not be so harmful to the casino business.

Let's find out. Since it looks as if Indiana residents are going to have to tolerate secondhand smoke for another year, it might be useful for the Indiana Legislature to assign one of its summer studies specifically to the question of whether or not smoking bans hurt the casino business, and for that matter, the bar business.

This issue is particularly germane to Indiana, a state which bills itself as a world class leader in the development of the life sciences industry.

Isn't it somewhat hypocritical, then, for a state that pegs a portion of its economy to improving human health to still be among a minority of states that allow smoking and the spread of secondhand smoke in too many public places?



Sausage-making proceeds

<http://www.journalgazette.net/article/20110408/EDIT07/304089994/1147/EDIT07>

April 8, 2011

Circulation: 60,122

Laws are like sausages, it's been said: Better not to see them being made.

In real life, however, informed citizens need to know how legislation moves and changes through the process, even though it sometimes is indeed an ugly sight.

Here's an update on some key proposals moving in the waning weeks of the Indiana General Assembly session:

Smoking

Indiana lawmakers again failed to protect Hoosier workers and patrons of various businesses when a Senate committee defeated a proposed statewide smoking law.

Supporters of a clean-air law largely opposed the proposed legislation because it was riddled with exemptions. The chairman of the Senate Public Policy Committee, Sen. Ron Alting, R-Lafayette, didn't help matters by refusing to allow the committee to remove some of the

exemptions. So a combination of lawmakers who wanted a stronger bill and those who didn't want any statewide smoking prohibition killed the proposal.

Indiana is one of just 15 states without a law restricting smoking in public and permitting innocent citizens to face the potential dangers of secondhand smoke.