

More on Tobacco Free Schools Law

As of August 1, 2008, all school districts in NC are required to adopt and enforce a 100% TFS policy.

SB 1086 Tobacco Free Schools was sponsored by Sen. Purcell was filed on March 20, 2007.

The bill is entitled: An Act to protect children in the public schools from exposure to tobacco by requiring local boards of education to adopt written policies prohibiting the use of tobacco products by any person in public school buildings and school facilities, on the public school campus, and in or on other school property.

SB 1086 (Tobacco Free Schools) passed the Senate Health Care Committee on April, 10 2007. On April 11, the full Senate approved SB by a vote of to 37-9 to make all NC school systems 100% tobacco-free. As of April 10, 2007, 84 of the 115 school systems in North Carolina had adopted a 100% tobacco-free policy by vote of the local school board. The purpose of this bill is to make the remaining 31 school systems 100% tobacco-free.

The bill passed with one amendment. The amendment, proposed by Senator Dan Clodfelter (D-Mecklenburg), would prohibit tobacco use at school-sponsored events, except by adults or school personnel, when not in the presence of students and when in a place where it is legal to smoke. The purpose of the amendment was to make it possible for adult chaperones (on a trip to Washington, DC, for example) to leave the students to smoke in places where it is legal. This amendment was approved unanimously 45-0.

The bill then moved to the House for further consideration. The House sent the bill to the House Committee on Children, Youth and Families. The House Committee Substitute bill passed the House Committee on Children, Youth and Families on April 16, 2007 and was referred to Committee on Education. In the committee meeting, Mark Ezzell, Director of Tobacco-Free Schools, Health and Wellness Trust Fund, provided testimony in support of the bill and Leanne Winner, Director of Governmental Relations, NC School Boards Association, voiced opposition to the statewide law by supporting continued local school board control on the issue.

On June 26, 2007, SB 1086 Tobacco-free Schools passed on a voice vote in the House Committee on Education and it was sent to House floor.

On June 27, 2007 the House passed SB 1086 TFS bill on second and third readings--102 to 7 with 4 no votes.

The Senate concurred with the House Committee Substitute on July 3, 2007 and the bill was sent to the Governor for signature on July 10, 2007.