

News

June 17, 2008

PA Governor Signs Clean Indoor Air Act

Pennsylvania Governor Ed Rendell signed SB 246, to be known as the Clean Indoor Air Act, into law on Friday, June 16, 2008. The law, which prohibits smoking in most public places and workplaces in the Commonwealth (including restaurants), will take effect September 11, 2008.

"All Pennsylvanians will benefit from the persistence of advocates and legislators who refused to quit working until we had joined dozens of other states in banning smoking in most public places," Rendell said at the signing ceremony.

Public places are defined as any place where the public is invited or permitted, including public transportation and vehicles for hire and transportation terminals. Also included in the ban are all places of employment, business, trade, crafts, sports, entertainment, recreation, education, and professional or volunteer activity.

Exempted from the smoking ban are private homes when not use for childcare or adult daycare, bars with 80 percent of sales in liquor, bars of restaurants with separate entrances that are separately ventilated, 25 percent of rooms in lodging establishments and full-service truck stops, designated rooms in long-term healthcare facilities and nursing homes, designated smoking areas in residential mental health and drug and alcohol treatment facilities, tobacco-related businesses (manufacturers and wholesalers and tobacco shops), and private clubs which have paid membership dues, hold regular meetings, and have elected officers. Certain areas of licensed casinos gaming floors and designated outdoor areas at sporting or recreational venues are also exempt, but not public areas such as hallways and reception areas. Facilities of volunteer fire companies, ambulance services, and rescue squads are also exempt.

Nonsmoking and smoking-permitted areas must be posted at entrances. Employers and building owners may declare entire facilities, including outdoor areas, as smoke free.

Employers may not refuse to hire, retaliate against, or discharge an employee or applicant because the individual exercise his or her rights under the Clean Indoor Air Act.

The state Department of Health and local departments of health are charged with enforcement of the law. The Pennsylvania State Police may also enforce the law or retain penalties.

The law overrides local ordinances, resolutions, and regulations adopted by political subdivisions within the Commonwealth.

Link

- [Text of Legislation](#)

 [View more resources on Smoking](#)

No part of this human resources web site may be reproduced in any form without permission of Business & Legal Reports, Inc.

Copyright © 2008 Business & Legal Reports, Inc. All rights reserved.

WEBARRAY2