

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2007

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HOUSE DRH70625-LNz-322* (4/30)

Short Title: Community Colleges/Tobacco Free. (Public)

Sponsors: Representatives Weiss and Williams (Primary Sponsors).

Referred to:

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1
2 AN ACT TO PROTECT COMMUNITY COLLEGE STUDENTS AND STAFF, AS
3 WELL AS VISITING PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS, FROM EXPOSURE TO
4 TOBACCO BY AUTHORIZING LOCAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE BOARDS
5 OF TRUSTEES TO ADOPT WRITTEN POLICIES PROHIBITING THE USE OF
6 TOBACCO PRODUCTS IN BUILDINGS, IN COMMUNITY COLLEGE
7 FACILITIES, ON COMMUNITY COLLEGE CAMPUSES, OR AT
8 COMMUNITY COLLEGE-RELATED OR COMMUNITY
9 COLLEGE-SPONSORED EVENTS, AND IN OR ON OTHER COMMUNITY
10 COLLEGE PROPERTY, AS RECOMMENDED BY THE JUSTUS-WARREN
11 HEART DISEASE AND STROKE PREVENTION TASK FORCE.

12 Whereas, young adults, ages 18-24, currently have the highest smoking
13 prevalence in North Carolina; and

14 Whereas, in 2007, the General Assembly enacted Senate Bill 1086, an act
15 requiring local boards of education to adopt, implement, and enforce written policies
16 prohibiting at all times the use of any tobacco product by any person in school
17 buildings; and

18 Whereas, evidence shows that students attending a North Carolina high
19 school that had established 100% tobacco-free school policy were 32% less likely to be
20 tobacco users and 40% less likely to be smokers compared to non-tobacco-free school
21 districts; and

22 Whereas, many North Carolina high school students attend classes or other
23 educational events at community colleges; and

24 Whereas, North Carolina's public high school students should be protected
25 from exposure to tobacco on community college campuses and in classrooms as well as
26 in public school buildings and campuses; Now, therefore,
27 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

1 **SECTION 1.** Article 2 of Chapter 115D of the General Statutes is amended
2 by adding the following new section to read:

3 **"§ 115D-25.4. Prohibition of tobacco use in community college buildings, grounds,**
4 **and at community college-sponsored events.**

5 (a) As used in this section:

6 (1) "Tobacco product" includes cigarettes, cigars, blunts, bidis, pipes,
7 chewing tobacco, snus, snuff, and any other items containing or
8 reasonably resembling tobacco or tobacco products.

9 (2) "Tobacco use" includes smoking, chewing, dipping, or any other use
10 of tobacco products.

11 (b) Local community college boards may adopt, implement, and enforce a
12 written policy prohibiting at all times the use of any tobacco product by any person in
13 community college buildings, in community college facilities, on community college
14 campuses, and in or on any other community college property owned, leased, or
15 operated by the local community college. The policy may also prohibit the use of all
16 tobacco products by persons attending a community college-sponsored event at a
17 location not listed in this section when in the presence of students or school personnel or
18 in an area where smoking is otherwise prohibited by law.

19 (c) The policy adopted by a local community college board of trustees may
20 include the following elements:

21 (1) Adequate notice of the policy to students, parents, the public, and
22 school personnel.

23 (2) Posting of signs prohibiting at all times the use of tobacco products by
24 any person in and on community college property.

25 (3) Requirements that community college personnel enforce the policy.

26 (4) Permission for tobacco products to be included in instructional or
27 research activities in community college buildings if the activity is
28 conducted or supervised by the faculty member overseeing the
29 instruction or research and the activity does not include smoking,
30 chewing, or otherwise ingesting the tobacco product.

31 (e) Nothing in this section, G.S. 143-595 through G.S. 143-601, or any other
32 section prohibits a local community college board of trustees from adopting and
33 enforcing a more restrictive policy on the use of tobacco in community college
34 buildings, in community college facilities, on community college campuses, or at
35 community college-related or community college-sponsored events, and in or on other
36 community college property."

37 **SECTION 2.** The North Carolina Tobacco Prevention and Control Branch
38 and the Health and Wellness Trust Fund Commission shall work with local community
39 college boards of trustees to provide assistance with the development and
40 implementation of the policy including providing information regarding smoking
41 cessation and prevention resources.

42 **SECTION 3.** This act is effective when it becomes law.