



## Legislative Alert

# Stop Smoking in Bars, Restaurants and Casinos !!!

## TAKE ACTION NOW!!

[HB 844](#) by Rep. Smith proposes to prohibit smoking in bars, restaurants and gaming establishments which we **strongly support**. The bill is scheduled for Tuesday, June 2nd to be debated on the House floor for final passage.

HB 844, as written:

- Would prohibit smoking in bars and restaurants;
- Would prohibit smoking in riverboats, gaming establishments, facilities licensed for video draw poker devices, facilities licensed for slot machines and off-track wagering facilities

Talking points:

- 28 other states have passed similar bans that include bars, while 16 states include casinos
- Secondhand smoke causes thousands of deaths per year that are completely preventable
- Would protect families who regularly face exposure to secondhand smoke in public places, bars and restaurants
- Exposure to secondhand smoke can cause or exacerbate a wide range of health problems, including cancer, respiratory infections, and asthma, according to the American Lung Association (ALA)
- Protects families and children and will create healthier communities and save thousands of lives
- Smoke free workplace policies are the only effective way to eliminate secondhand smoke exposure in the workplace.
- Casino, bar, and restaurant workers remain significantly more exposed to toxic secondhand smoke in their jobsite compared to other segments of the U.S. workforce
- Is responsible for up to 300,000 lower respiratory tract infections in kids under 18 months of age, resulting in up to 15,000 hospitalizations a year, causes 430 sudden infant death syndrome deaths in the U.S. annually and new evidence links increases in the number of asthma cases in children to secondhand smoke exposure

**Please contact your Representatives in the House and urge them to vote in support to HB 844.**

E-mail addresses for the House of Representatives can be found at this link:

[http://house.louisiana.gov/H\\_Reps/H\\_Reps\\_Email.asp](http://house.louisiana.gov/H_Reps/H_Reps_Email.asp)

House Switchboard: Phone 225.342.6945 • Fax 225.342.8336