

Facts about the Virginia Restaurant Smoking Ban

- This legislation, **which will go into effect December 1, 2009**, protects restaurant workers and patrons from the harmful effects of secondhand smoke.
- The bill bans smoking inside restaurants open to the public with **two exceptions**:
 - 1) **Private clubs** that are owned by organizations **with established bylaws** or a constitution that govern its activities (ie. local VFW's); and
 - 2) A restaurant that provides a **separately structured and ventilated room** where circulation of air from the smoking room into the non-smoking room is prevented.
- In addition, new provisions have been **added to strengthen** the bill:

Further Protection for workers: The bill prohibits any proprietor from requiring wait or bus staff to work in any area of the restaurant where smoking may be permitted.

Further Protection for patrons: Updated provisions specify that restaurants with a separated structure for smoking must ensure that at least one public entrance to the restaurant is in an area where smoking is prohibited.

Enforcement provisions: The bill **requires local health departments to inspect for compliance** with the smoking prohibitions when completing other routine inspections.
- It is important to note that because the Commonwealth does not differentiate between bars and restaurants, **this smoking ban will be one of the strongest, especially in the region**. Most states that have smoking bans exempt bars.
- In addition, this smoking ban will be the **strongest among the country's top tobacco producing states**.

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• North Carolina—no statewide smoking ban• Kentucky—no statewide smoking ban• South Carolina—no statewide smoking ban• Tennessee—statewide smoking ban except in places where you must show ID for entrance (age restriction) and in private clubs• Virginia <p>(In order of tobacco producing states)</p> |
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- The following **public health advocacy groups** support the legislation:

<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ American Academy of Pediatrics, Virginia Chapter○ Legislative Coalition of Virginia Nurses○ March of Dimes○ Medical Society of Virginia○ Psychiatric Society of Virginia○ Virginia Academy of Family Physicians	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Virginia Association of School Nurses○ Virginia College of Emergency Room Physicians○ Virginia Dietetic Association○ Virginia Nurses Association○ Virginia Society of Otolaryngology○ Virginia Council of Nurse Practitioners
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