



Shaping Tomorrow's
Built Environment Today

180 Technology Parkway, NW • Peachtree Corners, GA 30092-2977 • Tel: 404.636.8400 • Fax: 404.321.5478

Ginger Scoggins
2023-2024 ASHRAE President

Engineered Designs, Inc.
1151 SE Cary Pkwy., Ste. 200
Cary, NC 27518
Phone: (919) 851-8481
Email: gscoggins@engineereddesigns.com

June 12, 2024

The Honorable Marvin L. Abney
Chair
Finance Committee
Rhode Island House
82 Smith St.
Providence, RI 02903

Sent via email to: HouseFinance@rilegislature.gov

Re: HB 7500, "Public Health and Workplace Safety Act"

Dear Chair Abney and Members of the House Finance Committee:

I am writing on behalf of ASHRAE, the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating, and Air Conditioning Engineers to support House Bill 7500, which proposes to eliminate the smoking ban exemption for casinos and pari-mutuel facilities. ASHRAE, founded in 1894, is a global professional society of more than 54,000 members, including nearly 100 in Rhode Island. ASHRAE focuses on building systems, energy efficiency, indoor air quality, refrigeration and sustainability. Through research, standards writing, and continuing education, ASHRAE shapes tomorrow's built environment today.

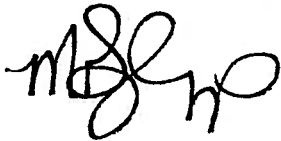
ASHRAE encourages the Committee to support the proposed elimination of the smoking ban exemption. ASHRAE's Position Document on Environmental Tobacco Smoke (ETS) states that with regard to indoor environments with mixed occupancy of smokers and nonsmokers, "No cognizant authorities have identified an acceptable level of ETS exposure to non smokers... **there is no currently available or reasonably anticipated ventilation or air cleaning system that can adequately control or significantly reduce the health risks of ETS to an acceptable level.**" (*ASHRAE Position Document on Environmental Tobacco Smoke, p. 1, 9.*)

As a technical Society developing standards for indoor environmental quality, ASHRAE holds the position that the only means of avoiding health effects and eliminating indoor ETS exposure is to ban all smoking activity inside and near buildings. This position is supported by the conclusions of health authorities that any level of ETS exposure leads to adverse health effects, and therefore:

- Any level of ETS exposure leads to adverse health effects. This assertion is supported by studies from U.S. Surgeon General, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the National Research Council, California Environmental Protection Agency, the World Health Organization, the International Agency for Research on Cancer, and the U.K. Department of Health; these citations may be found in the enclosed Position Document.
- The building and its systems can reduce only odor and discomfort but cannot eliminate exposure when smoking is allowed inside or near a building.
- Even when all practical means of separation and isolation of smoking areas are employed, adverse health effects from exposure in non-smoking spaces in the same building cannot be eliminated.
- Neither dilution ventilation, air distribution (e.g., "air curtains") nor air cleaning should be relied upon to control ETS exposure.

Again, thank you for your consideration of HB 7500 and its proposed elimination of the smoking ban exemption. On behalf of the nearly 100 ASHRAE members in Rhode Island, we urge swift passage of this legislation. I am attaching a copy of the ASHRAE Position Document on Environmental Tobacco Smoke, which more thoroughly discusses this matter. ASHRAE would be happy to address any questions you might have. Please feel free to contact me or have your staff contact GovAffairs@ashrae.org.

Sincerely,



Ginger Scoggins
ASHRAE President

Enclosure