

Legal Challenges Fail to Halt New Law

Several unsuccessful last minute legal challenges were filed in Kansas to halt the implementation of the new clean indoor air law.

A Tonganoxie, KS bar owner sued claiming that a provision in the law was unfair because of a January 2009 date which requires all new Class B clubs in Kansas to be smoke-free. A Shawnee County District Court judge allowed a narrow injunction that permits new Class B clubs to allow smoking until the courts resolve the legal issue.

In Wichita, a coalition of bingo parlors, bars, a pool hall and a hookah bar filed suit claiming the exemption for casinos is unconstitutional.

None of these issues delayed the implementation of the law and they currently remain before the courts.

Congratulations!

Clayton, MO: Smoke-Free July 1

*Fontbonne University (MO):
Smoke-Free July 1*

*Washington University in St.
Louis: Tobacco-Free July 1*

*Westminster College (MO):
Smoke-Free July 1*

Wisconsin: Smoke-Free July 5

Local Advocates and Legislators Celebrated New Smoke-Free Law

Clean Air Kansas City hosted a celebration event for the historic implementation date of the Kansas Clean Indoor Air Act. The event was held at Johnny's Tavern in Olathe on July 1st and was heavily attended by many local advocates and supporters who have been working towards the passage of a statewide law.

Kansas state legislators attending the event, included: Tom Burroughs (Kansas City), Stan Frownfelter (Kansas City), Dolores Furtado (Overland Park), Jill Quigley (Lenexa), Sheryl Spalding (Overland Park) and Ron Worley (Lenexa). Legislative champion, Representative Lisa Benlon (Overland Park) also attended the event.

Clean Air Kansas City recognized the state representatives who worked throughout previous and current years' legislative sessions to pass the statewide act.



Kansas state legislators attended the event on July 1st: (back row) Stan Frownfelter, Sheryl Spalding, Tom Burroughs, Ron Worley, (front row) Lisa Benlon, Dolores Furtado, Jill Quigley.

Clean Air KC recognized local advocate and supporter Nicole Brown for her many years of dedicated work with Clean Air Kansas City on local ordinances as well as the Kansas Clean Indoor Air Act.



After many years of dedicated work Nicole Brown and Joyce Morrison celebrated the historic public health victory in the state of Kansas.



Advocates in the Kansas City area celebrated all their hard work on local ordinances and state-wide legislation at Johnny's Tavern.

Clean Air Kansas City distributed a congratulatory memento to all who attended thanking them for their hard work and dedication to smoke-free legislation.

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Some Employers Make Smokers Pay More for Insurance

By Suzanne Perez Tobias
The Wichita Eagle

Already faced with smoking bans and rising cigarette prices, many Kansas smokers are learning that lighting up will cost them more for health insurance.

A growing number of employers are requiring workers who use tobacco to pay higher premiums in an effort to lower health care costs.

Newton Medical Center recently informed employees that beginning July 1, it will impose a "tobacco-user sur-charge" — \$35 per two-week pay period — to employees who smoke or have a spouse or dependents who smoke.

Such measures are becoming more common as employers look for ways to battle rising health care costs.

Companies that once opted for carrots over sticks — free gym member-

ships, for instance, or gift cards for attending a health fair — are moving toward surcharges and other punitive measures.



The California-based Safeway grocery store chain made national news last summer for its Healthy

Measures program, which rewards employees for healthy behavior.

Advocates of the so-called "Safeway model" compare it to auto insurance, which for years has tied accident risk to premiums. An 18-year-old man with a sports car and two speeding tickets, for example, pays more than a 45-year-old woman with a sedan and a spotless driving record

Tobacco-related surcharges or discounts are "becoming fairly common" in Kansas, said Steve O'Neil, life and health manager in the Kansas Insurance Department's consumer assistance division.

"Over the long haul, healthier employees cost less and generate fewer claims against the insurance program," said Peter Hancock, spokesman for the Kansas Health Policy Authority, which administers the state health care plan.