

ORDINANCE 2006/

ARTICLE V IS ADDED SO TO ADD TO THE BEAUFORT COUNTY CODE OF ORDINANCES A NEW SECTION THEREIN ESTABLISHING THE REGULATION AND REQUIREMENTS RELATING TO SMOKING TOBACCO PRODUCTS IN THE COUNTY OF BEAUFORT.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE BEAUFORT COUNTY COUNCIL, SOUTH CAROLINA, DULY ASSEMBLED:

WHEREAS, the Beaufort County Code of Ordinances is hereby amended to add new Sections, which shall read as follows:

Section 1 Findings.

As an incident to the adoption of this Ordinance, the Beaufort County Council ("Council") of the County of Beaufort, South Carolina (the "County") makes the following findings:

- A. Secondhand smoke as defined herein includes both smoke exhaled and smoke from the end of a burning cigarette, cigar or pipe; and includes a complex mixture of nearly Five Thousand (5,000) chemical compounds, including Forty-three (43) chemicals that are known human carcinogens; and
- B. The health consequences of involuntary smoking have been reported by the U.S. Surgeon General to be a cause of disease, including lung cancer, in healthy non-smokers; and
- C. The U.S. Surgeon General has concluded that a simple separation of smokers and non-smokers within the same airspace does not eliminate the exposure of non-smokers; and
- D. Secondhand smoke has been classified by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) as a known cause of cancer in humans (Group A Carcinogen) like asbestos, arsenic, hexavalent chromium; and
- E. The National Institutes of Health, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Toxicology Program, Report on Carcinogens and the International Agency for Research and Cancer have all reported that secondhand smoke is a human carcinogen; and
- F. Numerous medical and scientific studies show substantial levels of exposure to secondhand smoke among the United States population, and over the past two decades, the health hazards resulting from exposure to secondhand smoke have been increasingly recognized; and
- G. Secondhand smoke inhaled by a pregnant woman can increase the risk for low weight babies; and
- H. Exposure to secondhand smoke by children leads to decreased lung function, asthma, pneumonia, ear infections, bronchitis and even sudden infant death syndrome; and
- I. Exposure to secondhand smoke nearly doubles the risk of heart attack; and

- J. Four Hundred Sixty Thousand (460,000) annual deaths in the United States directly attributed to tobacco use, of which Fifty-five Thousand (55,000) are involuntary tobacco users; and
- K. Workplaces have been shown to be locations of significant exposure to secondhand tobacco smoke by employees working in the County; and
- L. Both the Public Health Services National Toxicology Program and the World Health Organizations' International Agency for Research on Cancer identify secondhand smoke as a Human Class A carcinogen and state that there is no safe level of exposure; and
- M. There are laws, ordinances and regulations in place that protect workers from other environmental hazards, including Class A carcinogens, asbestos, arsenic and benzene, but none which regulate exposure to secondhand smoke; and
- N. Prohibiting smoking in the workplace increases public awareness of the negative health effects of smoking, reduces the social acceptability of smoking and reduces harm to children and other nonsmokers; and
- O. The South Carolina General Assembly at Section 44-95-10 et seq. (the "Clean Indoor Air Act of 1990") imposed certain limitations on smoking. For example, the Act limited smoking in Government Buildings (the definition of which includes Beaufort County-owned buildings) except where the owner of such building shall designate smoking areas.

The Council has now determined that additional regulations of smoking in areas beyond those addressed in the Clean Indoor Air Act of 1990 is appropriate in furtherance of its duty to protect the health of its citizens and employees in the workplace and therefore enacts this ordinance.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT ENACTED:

Section 2. Intent.

The Council finds that it is in the best interest of the people of the County to protect nonsmokers from involuntary exposure to secondhand smoke in the workplace. Therefore, the Council declares that the purpose of this ordinance is to preserve and improve the health, comfort and environment of the people of the County by limiting exposure to tobacco smoke in the workplace.

Section 3. Definitions.

- A. "Employee" means any person who performs services for an employer in return for wages, profit or other valuable consideration.
- B. "Employer" means any person, partnership, association, corporation, trust, school, college, university or other educational institution, nonprofit entity or other organization, including any public or private employer, any manager, supervisor, and all other persons charged with control, supervision, and operation of any Work Place, Work Space, or Work Spaces as defined herein, that employs one (1) or more persons.
- C. "Enclosed" means a space bounded by walls (with or without windows), and enclosed by doors, including but not limited to, offices, rooms, foyers, waiting areas and halls.

- D. "Secondhand smoke" is the complex mixture formed from the escaping smoke of a burning tobacco product (termed as "sidestream smoke") and smoke exhaled by the smoker. Exposure to secondhand smoke is also frequently referred to as "passive smoking," "secondhand smoking" or "involuntary smoking".
- E. "Sheriff's Office" means the Beaufort County Sheriff's Office.
- F. "Public building" means any building owned, operated or leased by the County.
- G. "Retail Tobacco Store" means any establishment which is not required to possess a retail food permit whose primary purpose is to sell or offer for sale to consumers, but not for resale, tobacco products and paraphernalia, in which the sale of other products is merely incidental, and in which the entry of persons under the age of eighteen (18) is prohibited at all times.
- H. "Smoking" means the inhaling, exhaling, burning, lighting or carrying of a lighted cigarette, cigar, pipe, or similar device or any other lighted tobacco product.
- I. "Smoking Materials" includes cigars, cigarettes and all other manner of smoking devices intended to be used for the purpose of inhaling, burning, carrying or exhaling lighted tobacco products.
- J. "Workplace" means any enclosed indoor area, structure, building or facility or any portion thereof at which one (1) or more employee(s) perform services for their employer, including but not limited to: retail food stores; retail stores; restaurants; bars; cabarets, cafes; public or private clubs; pool halls and bowling alleys.
- K. "Work Space or Work Spaces" means any enclosed area occupied by an employee during the course of his or her employment, including but not limited to: offices, customer service areas; common areas; hallways; waiting areas; restrooms; lounges and eating areas.

Section 4. Prohibition of Smoking in the Workplace.

- A. The employer shall provide a smoke free environment for all employees working in all Work Space, Work Spaces and Work Places as those terms are defined herein. Further, the employer and all employees shall prohibit any persons present in said Work Space, Work Spaces and Work Places from smoking tobacco products therein.
- B. Smoking shall be prohibited in all Work Space, Work Spaces and Work Places in a workplace. This includes all common work areas, auditoriums, classrooms, conference and meeting rooms, private offices, hallways, medical facilities, cafeterias, employee lounges, staircases, restrooms and all other enclosed areas in the workplace.

Section 5. Smoking Restricted By State Law: S.C. Code § 44-95-10 et seq.

It is unlawful for a person to smoke or possess lighted smoking material in any form in the following public indoor areas:

- A. Public schools and preschools where routine or regular kindergarten, elementary, or secondary educational classes are held including libraries;
- B. All other indoor facilities providing children's services to the extent that smoking is prohibited in the facility by federal law and all other child day care facilities, as defined in Section 20-7-2700, which are licensed pursuant to Subarticle 11, Article 13, Chapter 7, of Title 20 of the South Carolina Code;
- C. Health care facilities as defined in South Carolina Code Section 44-7-130;
- D. Government buildings as defined in South Carolina Code Section 44-95-20(4), except to the extent regulation by the County is authorized therein;
- E. Elevators;
- F. Public transportation vehicles, except for taxicabs;
- G. Arenas and auditoriums of public theaters or public performing art centers;

Section 6. Exceptions.

Notwithstanding the provisions of Section 4 herein, smoking may be permitted in the following places and/or circumstances:

- A. Private residences, except when used as a licensed child care, adult day care or healthcare facility;
- B. Hotel, motel, inn, bed and breakfast and lodging home rooms that are rented to guests, designated as "smoking rooms" ("Rooms") provided that the total percentage of such Rooms does not exceed 25% in such establishment. A Room so designated shall have signs posted indicating that smoking is allowed therein;
- C. Retail Tobacco Stores as defined herein;
- D. Religious ceremonies where smoking is part of the ritual.

Section 7. Posting of Signs.

The owner, manager or person in control of an establishment or area in which smoking is prohibited pursuant to this section shall post a conspicuous sign at the main entrance to the establishment or area. The sign shall contain the words "No Smoking" and the universal symbol for no smoking.

Section 8. Reasonable Distance.

Smoking is prohibited within a reasonable distance of Twenty-five (25) feet outside entrances, operable windows, and ventilation systems of enclosed areas where smoking is prohibited, so as to insure that tobacco smoke does not enter those areas.

Section 9. Jurisdiction, Enforcement and Penalties.

- A. The Beaufort County Magistrate Court shall have jurisdiction over prosecuting violations of the provisions of this section.
- B. The Beaufort County Sheriff's Office shall enforce the provisions of this section. In addition, designated code enforcement employees of the County shall have the power to enforce the provisions of this section.
- C. Any person who violates any provision of this section shall be subject to a fine of \$500 and/or 30 days in jail.
- D. Each citation shall constitute a separate violation.

Section 10. Severability.

If any provision, clause, sentence or paragraph of this Ordinance or the application thereof to any person or circumstances shall be held invalid, that invalidity shall not affect the other provisions of the Ordinance which can be given effect without the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this Ordinance are declared to be severable.

Section 11. Non-Retaliation.

No person or employer shall discharge, refuse to hire, refuse to serve or in any manner retaliate or take any adverse personnel action against any employee, applicant, customer or person because such employee, applicant, customer or person takes any action in furtherance of the enforcement of this section or exercises any right conferred by this section.

Section 12. Conflict with Other Laws, Ordinances or Regulations.

Nothing in this section shall be deemed to amend or repeal any applicable fire, health or other, law, ordinance or regulation so as to permit smoking in areas where it is prohibited by such applicable fire, health or other law, ordinance or regulation.

Section 13. Waivers.

- A. Any employer, owner, manager or other person having control of a workplace subject to this section may apply to the Beaufort County Administrator ("Administrator") or his/her designee for a waiver of any provision of this regulation for a period not to exceed ninety (90) days.
- B. All waivers shall be submitted to the Administrator or his/her designee, on an application form provided by the Administrator along with a \$100 non-refundable filing fee.
- C. The decision to grant such a waiver shall be in the sole discretion of the Administrator or his/her designee, based upon his/her determination that such waiver is in the public interest. In do determining, the Administrator or his/her designee may take into account, but is not limited to the following:
 - (a) The efforts that the employer, owner, manager or other person having control of a workplace has made toward compliance with this section;

