

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office

January 18, 2000 LB 750

was passed in 1979, and we know a lot more about the impact of environmental tobacco smoke or secondhand smoke since that time. A lot of conditions have changed, lot of attitudes have changed about smoking. And I think it's important that at this point in time, 20 years plus later, that we begin to update this bill or this part of our law and look at the public policy question of how we can make the majority of our citizens even healthier, and how we can accommodate the public and recognize that most people don't want to be exposed to secondhand smoke. The bill will do several things, and the blue sheet coming around outlines that. Most of what is contained in the bill is already in regulation, but people get confused when they see the bill and don't see their names on the list of people who are under the Clean Indoor Act. These are recommendations from the department, nothing changes for most of these places. One place that was a little bit of confusion was bowling centers. Bowling centers, nothing changes for them. If you got calls over the weekend, we had a call this morning from their association saying that they realize that they are not...nothing changes for them under this bill, and that they are supportive of what we're trying to do. We're just putting their name on the list, nothing changes, they're already under the Clean Indoor Air Act. The most significant changes under this bill would be to restaurants and also to offices that have smoking in them. In terms of restaurants, restaurants that have a separate bar area can serve food in the bar area and have smoking in the bar area, but it has to be a separate bar. The restaurant itself would be nonsmoking. If the bar is open in the room, then it would...the whole restaurant would become nonsmoking under this bill. If people have private party rooms, they can have smoking, it's up to the people renting the room and the proprietor what they want to do in those cases. In businesses the areas must be designated for smoking areas. No longer can you smoke in private offices in...it has to be in the nonsmoking areas. The act will go into effect on 2001, this will give the department time, January 1st, to set into place regulations. And one area that I want to make clear, this does not impact bars. And there is an amendment to the committee amendments that's been worked on by the bar industry, for lack of a better term, that will clarify exactly what a bar is so that it's clear that the bars are not under this act. This act is directed at family restaurants, places that are very, very public. When this act