

Air Quality and Tobacco Legislation

This blog post will discuss the three tobacco related air quality bills.

Updates to the Clean Indoor Air Act

There are two proposed changes to the Clean Indoor Air Act: extending the bill's restrictions to electronic cigarettes, which has been introduced in the House and Senate, and repealing part of the Act that stated an exception for hotel and motel rooms, which has only been introduced in the House.

Background on the Clean Indoor Air Act

Maryland's Clean Indoor Air Act was passed in 2007 in order "to preserve and improve the health, comfort, and environment of the people of Maryland by limiting exposure to environmental tobacco smoke" (DHMH). This act prohibited smoking in indoor areas that were open to the public. The intent of this legislation is to limit the exposure to secondhand smoke by prohibiting smoking in all indoor public places so that Marylanders will have "clean, smoke-free air while working, dining, shopping, or relaxing throughout the state" (DHMH).

Clean Indoor Air Act - Use of Electronic Cigarette Devices - Prohibition (HB354/SB624)

Description: Prohibits the use of these devices in an indoor area open to the public, an indoor place in which meetings are open to the public, a government-owned or government-operated means of mass transportation including buses, vans, trains, taxis, and limousines, or an indoor place of employment to "improve the health, comfort, and environment of the people of the State by limiting exposure to environmental tobacco smoke **AND vapor**"

Status: House Economic Matters hearing 2/15, Senate Finance hearing 3/9

Clean Indoor Air Act - Repeal of Exception Regarding Hotel and Motel Rooms (HB597)

Description: The Clean Indoor Air Act exempts hotels and motels from prohibiting smoking if fewer than 25% of the rooms are rented, so under this Act smoking would be prohibited in all hotel and motel rooms, regardless of the occupancy percentage of the hotel or motel

Status: House Economic Matters hearing 2/15

Other Legislation: The Smoke-Free Multifamily Housing Promotion Act

Description: Establishing a grant program to promote smoke-free housing certifications

Status: House Finance hearing 3/9