

February 2010

Missouri General Assembly Considers Smoke Free Bill

Public health advocates are pleased with a public smoking bill introduced this session in the Missouri General Assembly.

HB 1766 is a comprehensive bill covering public places, bars, restaurants, and casinos.

The bill was introduced by St. Louis Republican Walter Bivins and has the support of Representative Robert (Wayne) Cooper (R), chairman of the House Health Care Policy Committee.

Grassroots supporters are organizing to support movement on this bill.

Threat to Topeka's Smoke Free Ordinance Derailed

A petition initiative to overturn Topeka's new smoke-free ordinance is fizzling. One of the main organizers said the group is considering dropping the effort because of a lack of support.

Study Shows Unsafe Air Quality in some Pittsburg, KS Bars and Restaurants

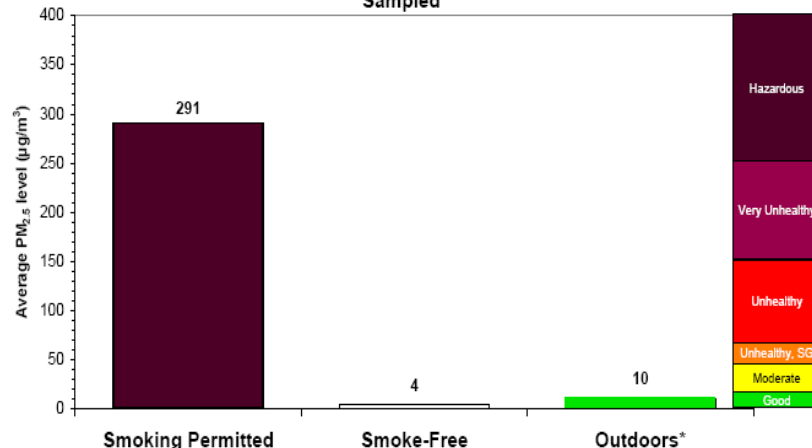
Indoor air quality testing last fall in nine Pittsburg, KS restaurant and bar locations showed unsafe levels of indoor air pollution due to smoking.

In a report released this month, the air quality results showed air quality levels fell into the Environmental Protection Agency's hazardous range. The testing, conducted in September, included two smoke free restaurants and seven bars and restaurants that permitted smoking.

The testing in Pittsburg was directed by Mark Travers, PhD, MS with the Roswell Park Cancer Institute in New York on behalf of Clean Air Pittsburg a local coalition in support of comprehensive smoke free policies. "One of the key findings of the report was the potential impact of second hand smoke for all employees in those establishments," said Travers.

Pittsburg is one of three Kansas communities selected for indoor air quality testing in 2009. The first was conducted in Emporia in March. The Topeka air quality testing was conducted this past August. Testing in all three communities showed unsafe levels of indoor air in bars and restaurants that permitted smoking.

Figure 1. Average Level of Indoor Air Pollution in Pittsburg Locations Sampled



* Used for comparison purposes. Based on the 2008 average PM_{2.5} level from the EPA monitoring sites in Kansas (<http://www.epa.gov/air/data/>). The color-coded EPA Air Quality Index is also shown to demonstrate the magnitude of the measured particle levels

Website: www.cleanairkanssas.org
E-mail: info@cleanairkanssas.org
Phone: 1-877-620-2257

4021 SW 10th St, #302
Topeka, KS 66604

clean air KANSAS
EVERYONE HAS THE RIGHT TO BREATHE CLEAN AIR



**Ventilation
and designated
smoking rooms
do not prevent
exposure
to second-hand
tobacco smoke.**

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