

Sponsored by: Assemblymember Doty  
Adopted: 04/04/17

**MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH  
RESOLUTION SERIAL NO. 17-028**

A RESOLUTION OF THE MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH ASSEMBLY SUPPORTING  
SMOKEFREE ALASKA (SENATE BILL 63).

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WHEREAS, secondhand smoke contains more than 7,000 chemicals, including at least 69 of which are known to cause cancer, including formaldehyde, benzene, vinyl chloride, arsenic, ammonia, and hydrogen cyanide; and

WHEREAS, people who are exposed to secondhand smoke are inhaling many of the same cancer-causing substances and poisons as smokers; and

WHEREAS, numerous studies have found that tobacco smoke is a major contributor to indoor air pollution and that breathing secondhand smoke is a cause of disease in healthy nonsmokers, including heart disease, stroke, respiratory disease, and lung cancer; and

WHEREAS, the 2006 United States Surgeon General's Report, *"The Health Consequences of Involuntary Exposure to Tobacco Smoke,"* concluded that there is no risk-free level of exposure to secondhand smoke; ventilation and other air cleaning technologies cannot eliminate exposure of nonsmokers to secondhand smoke; and

WHEREAS, smoke free workplace policies are the only effective way to eliminate secondhand smoke exposure in the workplace; and

WHEREAS, the 2010 United States Surgeon General's Report, "*How Tobacco Smoke Causes Disease*," determined that even occasional exposure to secondhand smoke is harmful; and

WHEREAS, there are serious questions about the safety of inhaling the substances in some e-cigarette aerosol; e-cigarettes have not been subject to thorough, independent testing, making it difficult for users to be sure of what they are actually inhaling; and

WHEREAS, some studies have shown that some e-cigarettes can cause short-term lung changes and irritations and the long-term health effects are unknown; and

WHEREAS, for every nine smokers who die, one nonsmoker dies from exposure to secondhand smoke; and

WHEREAS, approximately half of Alaska's population is not protected by a smoke free workplace law; and

WHEREAS, among those who work primarily indoors, young adults aged 18 to 29, are significantly less likely to be protected by a smoke free indoor workplace policy than other Alaskan adults; and

WHEREAS, research in communities where smoke free laws have been adopted has consistently shown neutral or positive economic effects to the hospitality industry following a smoke free workplace requirement; and

WHEREAS, smoke free workplace laws protect people from secondhand smoke, reduce tobacco use overall, and reduce health care costs; and

WHEREAS, all Alaskans have the right to breathe smoke free air; and


WHEREAS, the Borough is a second class borough without health powers and therefore depends upon State legislation for issues of health and safety that impact Borough citizens.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Assembly supports House Bill 63 that would prohibit smoking in enclosed areas in places of employment to protect the health and safety of all workers and visitors from the dangers of secondhand smoke.

ADOPTED by the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly this 4 day of April, 2017.

  
VERN HALTER, Borough Mayor

ATTEST:

  
LONNIE R. McKECHNIE, CMC, Borough Clerk  
(SEAL)

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: Sykes, Beck, McKee, Colligan, Mayfield, Doty, and Kowalke

