



Hundredth Legislature - First Session - 2007
Introducer's Statement of Intent
LB 395

Chairperson: Joel Johnson
Committee: Health and Human Services
Date of Hearing: February 1, 2007

The following constitutes the reasons for this bill and the purposes which are sought to be accomplished thereby:

LB 395 amends the Nebraska Clean Indoor Air Act by restricting smoking in any place of employment or public place in the State of Nebraska. The legislation has been modeled after the City of Lincoln's ordinance was implemented in January 1, 2005. LB 395 seeks to protect employees and the public from the hazards of second hand smoke in all indoor worksites, including bars and restaurants.

LB 395 and is designed to protect the public health and implement a uniform law that all citizens follow. A uniform law will improve the health of all Nebraskans and prevent competition between cities and businesses that have different smoking laws.

The U.S. Surgeon General reported this year: "The scientific evidence that secondhand smoke causes serious diseases, including lung cancer, heart disease and respiratory illnesses, is massive and conclusive. There is no risk-free level of exposure to secondhand smoke. Exposure to secondhand smoke has substantial and immediate adverse effects on the cardiovascular system. Establishing smoke-free workplaces is the only effective way to ensure that secondhand smoke exposure does not occur in the workplace."

Any person in violation of the act is guilty of a Class V misdemeanor for first offense and a Class IV misdemeanor for the second and any subsequent offenses.

Principal Introducer:

Senator Joel T. Johnson