

*Legislation, Regulations and Standards

105th Congress

[1] Legislation Introduced To Prohibit Smoking In Federal Buildings

Representative James Traficant (D-Ohio) has introduced the "Ban on Smoking in Federal Buildings Act" (H.R. 2118), which would prohibit smoking in all federally owned or leased buildings, including those used by the judiciary and the U.S. Congress. The bill, introduced on July 8, 1997, would not ban smoking in military installations, Veteran's Administration health care facilities, and federal buildings used as living quarters. A similar bill introduced by Traficant in 1993 would have prohibited smoking in federal buildings other than in separately ventilated smoking areas.

Introducing the bill, Traficant, the ranking Democrat on the Transportation Subcommittee on Public Buildings, stated that "in light of what is being done in the private sector" a uniform smoking ban for all federal buildings "makes good sense." He cited "studies conducted by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency" that identified ETS as a "major indoor air pollutant" that can be readily removed from the workplace. He also noted that Labor Department Officials in 1993 testified that the federal government had expended hundreds of thousands of dollars for workers' compensation claims based on ETS exposure.

The congressional findings portion of the legislation provides that "environmental tobacco smoke is a cause of lung cancer in healthy nonsmokers and is responsible for acute and chronic respiratory problems and other health impacts among sensitive populations." It's substantive provisions would prohibit smoking in any indoor portion of a federal building and empower the head of the General Services Administration to issue regulations as necessary to implement the

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policy. *See Congressional Press Releases, July 8, 1997.*

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