

STATE HEADLINES

- . Mississippi 1-cent, 10-cent and 25-cent cigarette tax bills died with adjournment of session 4/2...were never heard in cmte. Broad smoking restriction measures also failed to be considered.
- . A dozen Connecticut tobacco bills died in cmte on deadline for action last week: proposals for tobacco sampling ban...vending machine restrictions...additional limits on workplace, restaurant, public smoking...indoor air quality standards... ban on hiring of smokers as firefighters. Bill to ban sale of tobacco products on state property was killed in cmte this week.
- . Delaware Governor issued tough executive order on smoking in state government offices and facilities 4/3...bans smoking in work areas...allows agency heads to designate smoking lounges and cafeteria space. Order also prohibits sale of tobacco products in new contracts for concessions in state buildings. Governor Castle said he would introduce bill to ban sampling of cigarettes at State Fair.
- . Richmond, MO, voters firmly rejected referendum to raise local cigarette tax from 4 to 10 cents per pack at polls 4/4...measure was defeated by margin of 67-33 percent.

TAXES

- . North Dakota conference cmte on 2-year, 3-cent cigarette tax and OTP increase began meetings 4/5...voted to set OTP rate at 35 percent as originally introduced and passed by Senate... House added cigarette tax, lowered OTP rate to 23 percent, included sunset provision. S2475 is in Senate Finance & Tax Cmte for review today.
- . Alaska House passed bill to raise cigarette tax by 19 cents on 4/5...reconsideration is possible today...H80 would set new rate of 35 cents per pack...allow special local sales taxes on tobacco products. Similar measure, S253, would also raise taxes on alcoholic beverages...is pending in Senate Finance subcmte.
- . New York Governor and legislative leaders have tentatively agreed to raising cigarette tax by 13 cents as part of state revenue package...looking at new 15 percent OTP rate. State missed 4/1 deadline for enacting budget for new fiscal year...is in the red for old year.
- . Montana Senate Taxation Cmte holds hearing 4/7 on House-passed bill for 2-cent cigarette tax hike...revenues from H202 would repay construction bonds for veterans facilities...tax increase would expire when bonds are repaid. No action taken at Oregon House Environment Cmte hearing 4/3 on H3244, to fund indoor air pollution programs with 1-cent cigarette tax hike...bill would also ban smoking in most workplaces, restaurants, public places.

- . Florida House Health Care subcmte is hearing 10-cent cigarette tax bill today...H745 would fund indigent medical care. Alabama "tax levelization" bills were heard 4/5...H877 and S584 would swap 7.5 cent state cigarette excise increase, higher cigar and snuff taxes, for repeal of local tobacco taxes.
- . Vermont Senate Ways & Means Cmte will hold hearing 4/7 on 20-cent cigarette tax increase... revenues from S119 are for universal health insurance. New Hampshire House Regulated Revenue Cmte is holding hearing 4/5 on S531 would create mechanism to tax smokeless tobacco products.
- . Wisconsin teachers union has proposed raising statewide taxes to offer property tax relief ...plan includes 10-cent cigarette tax hike. Iowa House passed bill last week to earmark revenue from 3 cents of existing cigarette tax rate to revolving loan fund for rural development projects...H703 is in House Small Business Cmte. Under 1988 tax increase law, 3 cents of current 34-cent tax is to expire 7/1...bills are pending to repeal that sunset.
- . Missouri bill for 10-percent OTP tax awaits final reading on Senate floor...S282 would have set 20-percent rate as first introduced...in House, similar H700 awaits floor action.
- . Virginia will hold special session in late April to find \$150 million...U.S. Supreme Court ruled last month that states, including the Old Dominion, may not exempt pension benefits for state and local government retirees from income tax, while at same time taxing pensions of retired federal employees...in this election year, imposing income tax on state system retirees is unattractive option.

"FIRE-SAFE" CIGARETTE

- . No action taken on Massachusetts "fire-safe" cigarette bills after hearing 4/3...S1188 and H4357 remain in Joint Public Safety Cmte.
- . Minnesota Senate Rules subcmte has recommended that S641, to appropriate \$100,000 for development of "fire safety" standards for cigarettes, be referred to Senate General Legislation Cmte for review...sponsor wanted bill to go directly to Senate Finance Cmte.

SMOKING RESTRICTIONS

- . West Virginia Senate stripped private sector restrictions from broad "clean indoor air" bill last weekend...passed S405 applying only to publicly-owned buildings...now in House Health Cmte. Adjournment is scheduled for this weekend...legislative process in Senate has been slowed by one member's insistence that all bill "readings" actually be out loud.
- . On Iowa House floor calendar is H209, to require nonsmoking areas in restaurants, currently exempted from 1987 Clean Indoor Air Act. Massachusetts bill to ban smoking in indoor stadiums and auditoriums (H2627) awaits second reading on House floor.

- . Illinois House State Government Cmte holds hearing today on H378, to require accommodation of smokers and nonsmokers in workplaces...prohibit discrimination in employment...preempt local ordinances. House Executive Cmte hearing on chairman's broad smoking restriction bill (H120) was canceled this week. Rhode Island Senate Health, Education & Welfare Cmte hears S1217, to toughen workplace smoking restrictions on 4/7.

SAMPLING/ADVERTISING/SALES RESTRICTIONS

- . Rhode Island House Health, Education & Welfare Cmte heard outdoor advertising ban for tobacco products on 4/5...did not take action on H6312.
- . Michigan S267 was introduced this week...would ban sampling of tobacco products... was assigned to Senate Health Policy Cmte.
- . No action taken after hearing 4/4 by Oregon House Consumer Affairs Cmte on H3146...bill would require tobacco retail licenses...could be revoked for sale to minors, distribution of free cigarettes. Alaska licensing bill, H141, is under review in House Finance subcmte.
- . Massachusetts Joint Transportation Cmte OK'd S1596, to require MBTA to maximize non-farebox revenues, such as advertising, last week...goes to Senate Ways & Means Cmte... in 1986, MBTA Board of Directors banned tobacco advertising from transit system.

EMPLOYMENT DISCRIMINATION

- . Maryland Senate Judicial Proceedings Cmte favorably reported House-passed bill to prohibit employment discrimination based on smoking or nonsmoking 4/5...H1239 goes to Senate floor. Senate's version of same proposal, S729, is pending in House Environmental Matters Cmte.

THE LOCAL LOOK

- . New York. Westchester County legislature adopted smoking restriction measure 4/3...includes workplaces, restaurants, public places...takes effect in 6 months. Troy City Council is considering voluntary smoking restriction measure...would provide enforcement for "no smoking" signs posted at option of business proprietors. New York City Council's Health Cmte will hold oversight hearing 4/11 to review first year of smoking restriction ordinance.
- . Virginia. Hampton votes 4/12 on restaurant, public smoking restrictions. Nearby, Portsmouth citizens advisory group held public hearing last week on proposed restrictions... will make recommendations to City Council within a month. Under new state law, localities will be preempted from passing restrictions affecting private sector from 7/1/89 to 7/1/90.

- . Mid-America. Topeka, KS, Health Cmte agreed last week to amend current smoking ordinance to require restaurants to designate at least 50 percent of seating as nonsmoking...would also mandate that workplace smoking areas be contiguous...now to full City Council. St. Charles, MO, City Council reviews public smoking measure 4/11.
- . Arizona. Flagstaff Council holds work session on broad restriction measure 4/10...is scheduled to vote 4/18. Tucson City Council takes second look at city's smoking law 4/17 in response to complaints from local business community.
- . California. Alhambra City Council takes final vote on smoking restrictions at 4/10 meeting. Marin County Board of Supervisors will hear staff report on restriction proposals 4/11.

STATE SIDEBARS

- . Massachusetts measure requiring state government workplaces to meet indoor air quality standards was reported from Joint State Administration Cmte last week...H1479 awaits second reading on House floor.
- . New York Assembly Environmental Conservation Cmte reported out A5582 on 4/4...bill would impose 3-cent packaging tax to fund solid waste management program...goes to Assembly Ways & Means Cmte. Assemblyman Grannis has introduced ingredients disclosure bill, A7055...also two measures to include tobacco question on death certificates, A7056 and A7060...latter bill would also require statements on alcohol, drugs, AIDS.
- . Nebraska State Dept of Health has administratively placed tobacco use "contribution" question on new death certificate forms...regulation was adopted in February to add "sociological" questions to birth, death, marriage forms for statistical purposes.
- . Board of Directors of Dallas-Fort Worth Airport agreed this week to develop policy restricting smoking to designated areas in terminal.
- . Ins and Outs. Mississippi legislature adjourned 4/2...next out: Kansas and West Virginia on 4/8. Florida session formally convened on 4/4...Louisiana opens 4/17. During veto session 4/5, Governor of Virginia announced plans to call special session on pensions and revenue for end of April.