

OPENING STATEMENT
OF
TERENCE C. GOLDEN
ADMINISTRATOR, GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION
BEFORE THE SENATE SUBCOMMITTEE ON CIVIL SERVICE, POST OFFICE
AND GENERAL SERVICES
SENATE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS
OCTOBER 1, 1985

MR. CHAIRMAN, MEMBERS OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE:

IT IS A PLEASURE FOR ME TO APPEAR BEFORE YOU TODAY TO TESTIFY ON
S. 1440, THE NON-SMOKERS RIGHTS ACT OF 1985.

GSA IS RESPONSIBLE FOR ESTABLISHING RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR ALL
PROPERTY UNDER ITS CHARGE AND CONTROL, INCLUDING THE CONDUCT OF
ALL PERSONS ENTERING IN OR ON SUCH PROPERTY.

IN 1979, GSA'S SMOKING REGULATIONS WERE REVISED TO TAKE INTO
CONSIDERATION THE RIGHTS OF SMOKERS AND NON-SMOKERS AND ENCOURAGE
AGENCIES TO DEVELOP MORE STRINGENT INTERNAL RULES AND
ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES TO HANDLE VIOLATIONS OF THESE RULES.
THESE REGULATIONS PROVIDE FOR NO SMOKING IN THE FOLLOWING AREAS:
AUDITORIUMS, CLASSROOMS, CONFERENCE ROOMS, ELEVATORS, SHUTTLE
VEHICLES, HAZARDOUS AREAS, AND LIBRARIES. THE REGULATIONS ALSO
PROVIDE FOR "NO SMOKING" AREAS TO BE ESTABLISHED IN CAFETERIAS.
EMPLOYEES OCCUPYING AN OFFICE MAY UNANIMOUSLY DECLARE THEIR
OFFICE A "NO SMOKING" AREA. IN ADDITION, THE ESTABLISHMENT OF
"NO SMOKING" WORK AREAS IN OPEN SPACE IS ENCOURAGED IN ORDER TO

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PLAN WORK SPACE IN A MANNER THAT EMPLOYEES MAY BE ACCOMMODATED, PROVIDED EFFICIENCY OF WORK UNITS WILL NOT BE IMPAIRED, ADDITIONAL SPACE WILL NOT BE REQUIRED, AND COSTLY ALTERATIONS TO THE SPACE WILL NOT BE NECESSARY.

THE GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION'S SMOKING REGULATIONS ESTABLISH GUIDELINES FOR IMPLEMENTATION BY OCCUPANT AGENCIES. THEY ARE INTENDED TO ESTABLISH A BALANCE BETWEEN THE INTERESTS OF ALL EMPLOYEES AND PROVIDE THE AGENCY THE ABILITY TO DECLARE NON-SMOKING AREAS AS APPROPRIATE. IF AN AGENCY DEEMS IT WARRANTED, A COMPLETE PROHIBITION AGAINST SMOKING MAY BE INSTITUTED.

GSA WOULD ANTICIPATE THE AGENCIES BEING RESPONSIBLE FOR ENFORCEMENT AND MONITORING THESE DESIGNATED "SMOKING AREAS." GSA, HOWEVER, WOULD CONTINUE TO ASSUME THE RESPONSIBILITY IN PUBLIC AREAS AND JOINT USE SPACE. IN THIS CONNECTION, S. 1440 WOULD APPEAR TO EXTEND GSA'S AUTHORITY OVER BUILDINGS NOT UNDER OUR CONTROL, SUCH AS VETERAN ADMINISTRATION HOSPITALS AND CERTAIN TREASURY FACILITIES, WHICH MAY CREATE UNNECESSARY CONFLICT WITH SMOKING POLICIES WHICH THESE AGENCIES MAY HAVE ALREADY ESTABLISHED. THE SUBCOMMITTEE SHOULD GIVE SERIOUS CONSIDERATION TO THE VIEWS OF THESE AND OTHER INTERESTED AGENCIES BEFORE PROCEEDING FURTHER.

IF S. 1440 IS ENACTED, GSA WILL FULLY SUPPORT IT AND WILL WORK WITH THE OCCUPANT AGENCIES IN HELPING THEM DESIGNATE SMOKING AREAS WITHIN AGENCY ASSIGNED SPACE AND PLACE THE APPROPRIATE SIGNS.

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