



Shaping Tomorrow's
Built Environment Today

**ASHRAE Comments Regarding Pennsylvania House Bill 1657
House of Representatives Health Committee Hearing
September 20, 2023**

Good afternoon, my name is Bill McQuade. I've been a resident of Pennsylvania for 47 years and a licensed professional engineer in this State for 25 of them. I am also a member of the Central Pennsylvania ASHRAE Chapter. I'm pleased to submit these comments on behalf of ASHRAE regarding House Bill 1657, Amendments to the Clean Indoor Air Act.

ASHRAE, founded in 1894, is a technical and professional society with a mission to serve humanity by advancing the arts and sciences of heating, ventilation, air conditioning, refrigeration and their allied fields. Our more than 53,000 members include over 1,600 in Pennsylvania. ASHRAE focuses on improving building systems, energy efficiency, indoor environmental quality, refrigeration and sustainability through research, standards writing, publishing, certification and continuing education.

I encourage the Committee to support this bill's elimination of the smoking ban exemption for casinos and cigar bars. As a technical Society developing standards for indoor environmental quality, ASHRAE holds the position that the only means of avoiding health effects and eliminating indoor environmental tobacco smoke (ETS) exposure is to ban all smoking activity inside and near buildings. This position is supported by the conclusions of health authorities that any level of ETS exposure leads to adverse health effects.

It is ASHRAE's position that if smoking is allowed throughout a space or a collection of spaces served by a single air handler, with no effort to isolate or separate the smokers and nonsmokers, there is no currently available or reasonably anticipated ventilation or air cleaning system that can adequately control or significantly reduce the health risks of ETS to an acceptable level. This includes situations with unrestricted smoking in homes, dormitories, casinos, bingo parlors, small workplaces, and open plan office spaces.

A building and its systems can reduce odor and discomfort but cannot eliminate exposure when smoking is allowed inside or near a building. Even when all practical means of separation and isolation of smoking areas are employed, adverse health effects will still exist from exposure in non-smoking spaces in the same building. Dilution ventilation, air distribution (for example, "air curtains") or air cleaning should not be relied upon to control ETS exposure.

In addition, further research is needed on the health effects of involuntary exposure in the indoor environment from smoking cannabis, using hookahs and electronic nicotine delivery devices, and other activities commonly referred to as e-cigarettes or vaping.

We appreciate the Committee's consideration of ASHRAE's comments. We welcome your questions and would be happy to provide any additional information as needed. Thank you for working to ensure the health and well-being of building occupants in the state of Pennsylvania.