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Casinos may get exemption from Michigan smoking ban

BY CHRIS CHRISTOFF • LANSING BUREAU CHIEF • MAY 28, 2008

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LANSING — Plans to exempt Detroit's three casinos from a proposed statewide ban on smoking in workplaces got renewed life in the House today. On a 65-39 vote, the House sent yet another bill to the Senate to ban smoking except for casino gaming floors, cigar bars and bingo halls.

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All proposals so far would ban smoking in all restaurants and bars, which has sparked controversy from those who say it will cost those establishments business.

Today's House maneuver was a response from some Detroit representatives who feared that a smoking ban in Detroit's casinos would cost them business, and as a result much needed jobs. The ban would not apply to Native American casinos which are only regulated under negotiated rules overseen by the federal government.

But a total smoking ban appeared likely if the Senate doesn't accept the House plan. Previously, the Senate eliminated all exemptions from an earlier House bill.

That bill remained in the House today, and some Detroit representatives said they'd vote for it — including a ban in casinos — if the Senate fails to exempt

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Feedup wrote:

Replying to generaln1234567:

FYI. The poker room at Detroit's largest casino is, and always has been NON-Smoking. That has NOT seemed to keep any players away. As a matter of fact, the casino is currently expanding the capacity of that room. Also, years ago when restaurants were required to provide non smoking areas for customers, those areas were much smaller than the smoking areas. today it is jus the reverse, BY POPULAR DEMAND. So much for your theory about banning smoking having an afdverse effect on businesses.

You must be living in the dark ages pal. Many of thse workers work there because it's all they could find to make an honest living. They will be able to enjoy all the clean air they want when the layoffs come.

5/30/2008 1:19:13 PM

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lberns wrote:

Replying to TaxJunkie:

lberns, unfortunately, you can bet that a Janet Reno clone would find a reason to invade something like this state through claims of "discrimination" or "inequality" or "hate crimes/speech/etc." I could see it now-tanks, daisy-cutters, setting children on fire, you name it. There is no "cause" that our government cannot defend at the expense of liberty and blood.

Actually it is gaining steam. Check out Free Talk Live at <http://www.freetalklive.com> They have a daily podcast. The hosts moved from Florida to join this effort. Free Staters have already done events such as gambling with money in public, open carry (guns) neighborhood cleanup (litter), one guy openly defied a law making public puppetry illegal, the list goes on including other acts of civil disobediance such as defying smoking bans. There is strength in numbers. That is the pupose. Get about 20,000 liberty minded individuals in the same location and initiate change.

5/29/2008 1:30:27 PM

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Hrapray wrote:

Raise the taxes on smokers to offset the cost of second hand health issues that will continue to rise if we don't implement a smoking band.

5/29/2008 11:34:36 AM

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Hrapray wrote:

Time for the smokers to take there cancer sticks outside. Death is a single event. No need to directly or indirectly take anyone else with them for a bad health choice smokers make.

5/29/2008 11:33:13 AM

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Republican wrote:



Replying to opiner:

I love how the house and senate are taking this so seriously and when it came to the budget last year they didn't give damn (and Granholm was mostly to blame, I know.)

My 2 cents is let the establishment choose if they want smoking or not. That's how the free market should work. If you don't like someone's policy, don't be a patron. It's simple! Government intervention is taking over the world and you thought the commies were defeated in the 80s. Look at your state and country today, not much different is it?

A few of these lawmakers who voted for the ban on smoking everywhere except Casino's have had their palms greased.....

5/29/2008 10:36:58 AM

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