

BILL NO. 125

(as passed, with amendments)



*2nd Session, 58th General Assembly
Nova Scotia
51 Elizabeth II, 2002*

Government Bill

Smoke-free Places Act

CHAPTER 12 OF THE ACTS OF 2002

The Honourable Jamie Muir
Minister of Health

[First Reading](#): April 26, 2002 (LINK TO BILL AS INTRODUCED)

Second Reading: May 6, 2002

[Third Reading](#): May 30, 2002 (WITH COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS)

Royal Assent: May 30, 2002



**An Act to Protect Young Persons
and Other Persons from Tobacco Smoke**

Be it enacted by the Governor and Assembly as follows:

1 This Act may be cited as the *Smoke-free Places Act*.

2 In this Act,

(a) "employer" includes any person who supervises employees in a place of employment;

(b) "enclosed place" means the inside or other enclosed part of a building, vehicle or watercraft or other indoor space but does not include a private residence;

(c) "inspector" means an inspector appointed pursuant to this Act;

(d) "manager" of an enclosed place referred to in Section 5 or 6 means any person who has responsibility for and control over the activities of the place, and includes the owner of the place;

(e) "Minister" means the Minister of Health;

(f) "place of employment" means an enclosed place, other than a vehicle, in which employees perform the duties of their employment and includes an adjacent corridor, lobby, stairwell, elevator, escalator, eating area, washroom, restroom or other common area frequented by employees during the course of their employment but does not include a rental unit of roofed accommodation within the meaning of the *Tourist Accommodations Act*;

(g) "school" means a public or private elementary or secondary school;

(h) "smoke" means to smoke, hold or otherwise have control over ignited tobacco;

(i) "tobacco" means tobacco as defined in Part III of the *Revenue Act*.

3 (1) This Act binds Her Majesty in right of the Province.

(2) Nothing in this Act affects the rights of aboriginal people respecting traditional aboriginal spiritual or cultural practices or ceremonies.

4 The Minister has the general supervision and management of this Act.

5 (1) No person shall smoke in any enclosed place that is or includes

(a) a daycare or pre-school;

(b) a school, community college or university;

(c) a library, art gallery or museum;

(d) a health-care facility;

(e) a cinema or theatre;

(f) a video arcade or pool hall;

(g) a recreational facility where the primary activity is physical recreation, including, but not limited to, a bowling alley, fitness centre, gymnasium, pool or rink;

(h) a multi-service centre, community centre or hall, arena, fire hall or church hall;

(i) a meeting or conference room or hall, ballroom or conference centre;

- (j) a retail shop, boutique, market or store or shopping mall;
 - (k) a laundromat;
 - (l) a ferry, ferry terminal, bus, bus station or shelter, taxi, taxi shelter, limousine or vehicle carrying passengers for hire;
 - (m) a vehicle used in the course of employment while carrying two or more employees;
 - (n) the common area of a commercial building or multi-unit residential building including, but not limited to, corridors, lobbies, stairwells, elevators, escalators, eating areas, washrooms and restrooms;
 - (o) offices of the Government of the Province, a municipality, a village or a school board, or any agency thereof;
 - (p) a provincial jail, prison, detention centre, lock-up or reformatory or another provincial penal institution; or
 - (q) any building or facility designated by the regulations,
- except as permitted by Section 6.

(2) No person shall smoke on the grounds of a school.

(3) No manager of an enclosed place referred to in subsection (1) or of the grounds of a school shall permit any person to smoke in that place, except as permitted by Section 6, or on the grounds of the school.

(4) No person shall smoke in an outdoor area within four metres of an intake for a building ventilation system, an open window of a place of employment or an entrance to a place of employment.

6 (1) No person shall smoke in any enclosed place that is or includes

- (a) a restaurant;
 - (b) a lounge or beverage room;
 - (c) any building or facility designated by the regulations;
 - (d) a private club;
 - (e) a cabaret, club or other place licensed to serve alcoholic beverages;
 - (f) a place that is being used for bingo;
 - (g) a facility as defined in the *Hospitals Act*, a nursing home or residential care facility licensed under the *Homes for Special Care Act*, a home for aged or disabled persons to which the *Homes for Special Care Act* applies or a part of a health-care facility used for the acute or long-term care of veterans; or
 - (h) a withdrawal-management detoxification unit established by the Minister pursuant to the *Health Act*,
- except in an area that no person under the age of nineteen years is permitted to enter or be in and that is separately enclosed and separately ventilated, as prescribed by the regulations, from any part of an enclosed place in which smoking is prohibited by this Act.

(2) No person shall smoke in the outdoor area of a restaurant except in an area that no person under the age of nineteen years is permitted to enter or be in.

(3) No person shall smoke, between six o'clock in the morning and nine o'clock in the evening, in the outdoor area of a lounge or beverage room except in an area that no person under the age of nineteen years is permitted to enter or be in.

- (4)** No manager of an enclosed place referred to in subsection (1) or an outdoor area referred to in subsection (2) or (3) shall permit any person to smoke in that place or area except as provided in those subsections.
- (5)** No person under the age of nineteen years shall enter or be in an area of an enclosed place referred to in subsection (1) or an outdoor area referred to in subsection (2) or (3) in which smoking is permitted by subsection (1), (2) or (3).
- (6)** No manager of an enclosed place referred to in subsection (1) or an outdoor area referred to in subsection (2) or (3) shall permit any person under the age of nineteen years to enter or be in an area of that place or an outdoor area in which smoking is permitted by subsection (1), (2) or (3).
- (7)** The area of a restaurant in which smoking is permitted pursuant to subsection (1) may not exceed
- (a) twenty-five per cent of the total indoor eating area of the restaurant; or
 - (b) fifty per cent of the outdoor area of the restaurant.
- (8)** The area of a lounge or beverage room in which smoking is permitted pursuant to subsection (1) may not, between six o'clock in the morning and nine o'clock in the evening, exceed
- (a) twenty-five per cent of the total indoor drinking area of the lounge or beverage room; or
 - (b) fifty per cent of the outdoor area of the lounge or beverage room.
- (9)** The area of a building or facility referred to in clause (1)(c) in which smoking is permitted pursuant to subsection (1) may not, between six o'clock in the morning and nine o'clock in the evening, exceed
- (a) twenty-five per cent of the total drinking area of the building or facility referred to in clause (1)(c); or
 - (b) fifty per cent of the outdoor area of the building or facility referred to in clause (1)(c).
- 7** Sections 5 and 6 do not apply to an enclosed place or outdoor eating or drinking place while being used exclusively for a private function at which no persons under the age of nineteen years are permitted.
- 8 (1)** No person shall smoke in any place of employment except
- (a) as permitted by Section 6; or
 - (b) in a room that is designated as a smoking room in accordance with subsection (3) and enclosed and ventilated in accordance with subsection (5).
- (2)** No employer shall permit any person to smoke in any place of employment except
- (a) as permitted by Section 6; or
 - (b) in a room that is designated as a smoking room in accordance with subsection (3) and enclosed and ventilated in accordance with subsection (5).
- (3)** Subject to subsection (4) and the regulations, an employer may designate a room in a place of employment as a smoking room in accordance with the regulations if that room is set aside exclusively for smoking by the employees as provided by the regulations but no larger room may be designated than the maximum size permitted by the regulations.
- (4)** A room in an enclosed place referred to in subsection 5(1) may not be designated as a smoking room unless it is in an enclosed place referred to in subsection 6(1).
- (5)** An area in a place of employment designated as a smoking room must be separately enclosed and separately ventilated, in accordance with the regulations, from any part of an enclosed place in which smoking is prohibited by this

Act.

(6) No person under the age of nineteen years may enter or be in a smoking room authorized by this Section.

(7) No employer shall permit any person under the age of nineteen years to enter or be in a smoking room authorized by this Section.

9 No employer or manager shall permit any ashtrays in any place at any time when smoking is prohibited in that place by this Act.

10 (1) No employer shall require any employee to work in any part of an enclosed place referred to in clause 6(1)(a), (b) or (c) or of the outdoor area of such a place at any time when smoking is not prohibited in that part by this Act.

(2) No employer shall discharge or layoff an employee because the employee refuses to work in a part of an enclosed place or outdoor area referred to in subsection (1).

11 (1) No person under the age of nineteen years may possess tobacco.

(2) Where a peace officer has reasonable grounds to believe that a person under the age of nineteen years is in possession of tobacco, the peace officer may search that person and confiscate any tobacco in that person's possession.

(3) A person who believes that the confiscation of an item pursuant to subsection (2) was wrongful because

(a) the person from whom the item was confiscated was not under the age of nineteen years at the time the item was confiscated; or

(b) the item confiscated was not tobacco,

may, within seven days of the confiscation, apply to a judge of the provincial court for the return of the item confiscated.

(4) Where the judge is satisfied that the confiscation was wrongful for the reason set out in clause (3)(a) or (b), the judge shall order that the item be returned to the person from whom it was confiscated.

(5) In an application pursuant to subsection (3), the burden is upon the applicant to prove that the confiscation was wrongful.

(6) Where

(a) no application is made within seven days of the confiscation; or

(b) the application is dismissed,

the item confiscated is forfeited to Her Majesty in right of the Province.

(7) Notwithstanding any enactment, subsection (1) does not create an offence.

(8) Nothing in this Section prohibits the possession of tobacco by a person under the age of nineteen years for the purpose of enforcing, or ensuring compliance with, any enactment prohibiting or restricting the sale of tobacco to persons under the age of nineteen years if such possession is authorized by a person whose duty it is to enforce, or ensure compliance with, the enactment.

12 (1) The Minister may appoint or designate inspectors for the purpose of this Act.

(2) For the purpose of ensuring compliance with this Act and the regulations, an inspector may

- (a) enter and inspect any place to which this Act applies, at any reasonable time without warrant or notice, and make such examinations and inquiries and conduct such tests as the inspector considers necessary or advisable;
- (b) be accompanied and assisted by any person who, in the opinion of the inspector, has special knowledge or expertise;
- (c) make enquiries of any person who is or was in a place to which this Act applies;
- (d) require the production of drawings, specifications, floor plans, maintenance records or other documents for a place to which this Act applies and may inspect, examine, copy or seize them;
- (e) exercise such other powers as are prescribed by the regulations;
- (f) exercise such powers as are incidental to the powers set out in clauses (a) to (e).

(3) No person shall obstruct, interfere with or fail to co-operate with an inspector in the execution of the inspector's duties under this Act.

13 (1) Where an inspector finds that a manager or employer is not complying with a provision of this Act, the inspector may order the manager or employer to comply with the provision and may require the order to be carried out immediately or within such period of time as the inspector specifies.

(2) An order made pursuant to subsection (1) shall indicate generally the nature and, where appropriate, the location of the non-compliance with this Act.

14 (1) Every person, other than a manager or employer, who contravenes this Act or the regulations or fails to comply with an order made pursuant to this Act or the regulations is guilty of an offence and liable on summary conviction to a fine of not more than two thousand dollars.

(2) Every manager or employer who contravenes this Act or the regulations or fails to comply with an order made pursuant to this Act or the regulations is guilty of an offence and liable on summary conviction for a first offence to a fine of not more than two thousand dollars, for a second offence to a fine of not more than five thousand dollars and for a third or subsequent offence to a fine of not more than ten thousand dollars.

(3) In addition to any penalty levied pursuant to subsection (2) upon conviction for an offence contrary to this Act, an authority authorized to suspend or cancel any licence or permit issued in respect of the premises where the offence was committed may suspend or cancel that licence or permit.

15 (1) The Governor in Council may make regulations

- (a) designating any building or facility for the purpose of Section 5;
- (b) designating any building or facility for the purpose of Section 6;
- (c) prescribing the nature of any enclosure and ventilation for the purpose of Section 6;
- (d) respecting the use of a smoking room permitted by Section 7;
- (e) prescribing the maximum size of any smoking room permitted by Section 7 or prohibiting the designation of a room as a smoking room pursuant to Section 7;
- (f) prescribing the nature of any enclosure and ventilation for the purpose of Section 7;
- (g) setting air-quality standards for any part of an enclosed place or place of employment where smoking is not permitted by this Act if smoking is permitted in another part of that place;
- (h) setting air-quality standards for any part of an enclosed place or place of employment where smoking is permitted by

this Act;

- (i) determining design criteria for ventilation or for ensuring air quality;
- (j) prescribing the obligations of employers and managers respecting the maintenance of air-quality standards set by the regulations;
- (k) prescribing the records to be kept by employers and managers for the purpose of ensuring compliance with this Act and the regulations;
- (l) requiring the posting of signs for the purpose of this Act;
- (m) prescribing powers and duties of inspectors;
- (n) authorizing a minor variance from any provision of this Act for an establishment existing at the time this Act comes into force;
- (o) defining "restaurant", "lounge" and "beverage room";
- (p) defining any other word or expression used but not defined in this Act;
- (q) further defining any word or expression defined in this Act;
- (r) respecting any matter that the Governor in Council considers necessary or advisable to carry out effectively the intent and purpose of this Act.

(2) A regulation made pursuant to this Act may be of general application or may apply to such individual or individuals, such class or classes of persons, such class or classes of places or such class or classes of matters or things as the Governor in Council determines and there may be different regulations with respect to different individuals, different classes of persons, different classes of places and different classes of matters or things.

(3) No regulation may be made pursuant to clause (1)(n) unless the regulation is recommended to the Governor in Council by the Minister where the Minister is of the opinion that there are rare and extenuating circumstances justifying the regulation and that the regulation does not compromise the intent and purpose of this Act.

(4) The exercise by the Governor in Council of the authority contained in subsection (1) is regulations within the meaning of the *Regulations Act*.

16 (1) Nothing in this Act affects any other authority to regulate, restrict or prohibit smoking.

(2) Where there is a conflict between this Act and any other authority, regulating, restricting or prohibiting smoking, the more restrictive authority prevails to the extent of the conflict.

17 Subsection 6(1) is amended by

- (a) adding "or" at the end of clause (f);
- (b) striking out "; or" at the end of clause (g) and substituting a comma; and
- (c) striking out clause (h).

18 (1) This Act, except Section 17, comes into force on January 1, 2003.

(2) Section 17 comes into force on such day as the Governor in Council orders and declares by proclamation.



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