



Shaping Tomorrow's
Built Environment Today

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M. Dennis Knight
2024-2025 ASHRAE President

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February 4, 2025

The Honorable Sam Creekmore
Chair
Committee on Public Health and Human Services
Mississippi House
400 High Street
Jackson, MS 39201

Sent via email to: screekmore@house.ms.gov

Re: HB 361, "Mississippi Smoke-Free Air Act"

Dear Chair Creekmore and Committee Members:

ASHRAE, founded in 1894, is a global society advancing human well-being through sustainable technology for the built environment. The Society and its more than 54,000 members, including over 100 in Mississippi, focus on building systems, energy efficiency, indoor air quality, refrigeration and sustainability. Through research, standards writing, publishing, certification and continuing education, ASHRAE shapes tomorrow's built environment today.

ASHRAE encourages the Committee to support HB 361, the Mississippi Smoke-Free Air Act. ASHRAE's Position Document on Environmental Tobacco Smoke (ETS) states that with regard to indoor environments with mixed occupancy of smokers and nonsmokers, "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 situation includes unrestricted smoking in homes, dormitories, casinos, bingo parlors, small workplaces, and open plan office spaces." (ASHRAE Position Document on Environmental Tobacco Smoke, p. 9.)

We also appreciate the bill's reference to ASHRAE's expertise on this issue. As a non-partisan technical Society that develops standards for indoor environmental quality, ASHRAE holds the position that the only means of avoiding health effects and eliminating indoor 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, and therefore:

- The building and its systems can reduce only 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 from exposure in non-smoking spaces in the same building cannot be eliminated.
- Neither dilution ventilation, air distribution (e.g., “air curtains”) nor air cleaning should be relied upon to control ETS exposure.
- For multi-family buildings, complete smoking bans inside and near them protects nonsmoking adults and children.

Again, thank you for your consideration of HB 361, the Mississippi Smoke-Free Air Act. I am attaching a copy of the ASHRAE Position Document on Environmental Tobacco Smoke, which more thoroughly discusses this matter. ASHRAE would be happy to address any questions you might have. Please feel free to contact me or have your staff contact GovAffairs@ashrae.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "M. Dennis Knight". The signature is written in a cursive style.

M. Dennis Knight
2024-2025 ASHRAE President

Enclosure