

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA**  
**SESSION 2007**

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**HOUSE BILL 2254\***

Short Title: Community Colleges/Tobacco Free. (Public)

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Sponsors: Representatives Weiss, Williams, Justice, Glazier (Primary Sponsors); Adams, Alexander, Carney, Coates, England, Faison, Fisher, Hurley, Insko, Lucas, Luebke, Martin, Pierce, Underhill, Wainwright, E. Warren, Womble, and Wray.

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Referred to: Health, if favorable, Judiciary I.

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May 20, 2008

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

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2 AN ACT TO PROTECT COMMUNITY COLLEGE STUDENTS AND STAFF, AS  
3 WELL AS VISITING PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS, FROM EXPOSURE TO  
4 TOBACCO BY AUTHORIZING LOCAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE BOARDS  
5 OF TRUSTEES TO ADOPT WRITTEN POLICIES PROHIBITING THE USE OF  
6 TOBACCO PRODUCTS IN BUILDINGS, IN COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
7 FACILITIES, ON COMMUNITY COLLEGE CAMPUSES, OR AT  
8 COMMUNITY COLLEGE-RELATED OR COMMUNITY  
9 COLLEGE-SPONSORED EVENTS, AND IN OR ON OTHER COMMUNITY  
10 COLLEGE PROPERTY, AS RECOMMENDED BY THE JUSTUS-WARREN  
11 HEART DISEASE AND STROKE PREVENTION TASK FORCE.

12       Whereas, young adults, ages 18-24, currently have the highest smoking  
13 prevalence in North Carolina; and

14       Whereas, in 2007, the General Assembly enacted Senate Bill 1086, an act  
15 requiring local boards of education to adopt, implement, and enforce written policies  
16 prohibiting at all times the use of any tobacco product by any person in school  
17 buildings; and

18       Whereas, evidence shows that students attending a North Carolina high  
19 school that had established 100% tobacco-free school policy were 32% less likely to be  
20 tobacco users and 40% less likely to be smokers compared to non-tobacco-free school  
21 districts; and

22       Whereas, many North Carolina high school students attend classes or other  
23 educational events at community colleges; and

24       Whereas, North Carolina's public high school students should be protected  
25 from exposure to tobacco on community college campuses and in classrooms as well as  
26 in public school buildings and campuses; Now, therefore,

1 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

2 **SECTION 1.** Article 2 of Chapter 115D of the General Statutes is amended  
3 by adding the following new section to read:

4 **"§ 115D-25.4. Prohibition of tobacco use in community college buildings, grounds,  
5 and at community college-sponsored events.**

6 (a) As used in this section:

7 (1) "Tobacco product" includes cigarettes, cigars, blunts, bidis, pipes,  
8 chewing tobacco, snus, snuff, and any other items containing or  
9 reasonably resembling tobacco or tobacco products.

10 (2) "Tobacco use" includes smoking, chewing, dipping, or any other use  
11 of tobacco products.

12 (b) Local community college boards may adopt, implement, and enforce a  
13 written policy prohibiting at all times the use of any tobacco product by any person in  
14 community college buildings, in community college facilities, on community college  
15 campuses, and in or on any other community college property owned, leased, or  
16 operated by the local community college. The policy may also prohibit the use of all  
17 tobacco products by persons attending a community college-sponsored event at a  
18 location not listed in this section when in the presence of students or school personnel or  
19 in an area where smoking is otherwise prohibited by law.

20 (c) The policy adopted by a local community college board of trustees may  
21 include the following elements:

22 (1) Adequate notice of the policy to students, parents, the public, and  
23 school personnel.

24 (2) Posting of signs prohibiting at all times the use of tobacco products by  
25 any person in and on community college property.

26 (3) Requirements that community college personnel enforce the policy.

27 (4) Permission for tobacco products to be included in instructional or  
28 research activities in community college buildings if the activity is  
29 conducted or supervised by the faculty member overseeing the  
30 instruction or research and the activity does not include smoking,  
31 chewing, or otherwise ingesting the tobacco product.

32 (e) Nothing in this section, G.S. 143-595 through G.S. 143-601, or any other  
33 section prohibits a local community college board of trustees from adopting and  
34 enforcing a more restrictive policy on the use of tobacco in community college  
35 buildings, in community college facilities, on community college campuses, or at  
36 community college-related or community college-sponsored events, and in or on other  
37 community college property."

38 **SECTION 2.** The North Carolina Tobacco Prevention and Control Branch  
39 and the Health and Wellness Trust Fund Commission shall work with local community  
40 college boards of trustees to provide assistance with the development and  
41 implementation of the policy including providing information regarding smoking  
42 cessation and prevention resources.

43 **SECTION 3.** This act is effective when it becomes law.