
PROTECT THOSE WHO CANNOT PROTECT THEMSELVES!

*Prohibit Smoking In Cars
With Small Children*



HB 6285 AN ACT CONCERNING SMOKING IN MOTOR VEHICLES

Purpose:

- To protect small children who are under 7 years old or who weigh less than 60 pounds from second hand smoke.
- To further educate the public on the dangers of being exposed to second hand smoke.
- The following statistics are taken from the American Lung Association:
- Children who breathe second hand smoke are likely to suffer from pneumonia, bronchitis and other lung diseases.
- Children with asthma and who breathe second hand smoke are more likely to suffer from asthma attacks.
- There are an estimated 150,000 to 300,000 cases every year of infections, such as bronchitis and pneumonia, in infants and children under 18 months of age who breathe second hand smoke. 7,500-15,000 of these children require hospitalization.

Enforcement:

- This law mirrors that of the child restraint system and prohibits smoking in motor vehicles with children secured in a child restraint system.
- Connecticut Police Chiefs Association supports this bill to protect our children from second hand smoke and to promote responsible driving decisions.
- During the first year of this law, first time violators will be issued a warning and subsequent violations will be an infraction.

Government Role:

“This common sense legislation will help protect the most vulnerable and precious members of society from the well-documented dangers of second-hand smoke. Connecticut has always been at the forefront of enacting legislation to protect children from dangerous conditions that can and should be prevented. Protecting children in a confined area from the pernicious effects of second-hand smoke is consistent with these measures. A number of other states and territories have already enacted similar laws.”

- 2015 Statement from Attorney George Jepsen

“There is no risk free exposure to second hand smoke.”

- 2006 Surgeon General

Issues:

“Small children can be free of second hand smoke if the smoker cracks open the car window.”

Response:

“The levels of contaminants during open-windows conditions, though significantly less than when the windows were closed, were still unsafe.” Results of a study conducted by the Harvard School of Public Health. This study substantiates how hazardous second hand smoke is to small children and the elderly. This was confirmed by another scientific study with Stanford University researchers.

Smoking in cars even with the windows open, can produce smoke pollution that compares with smoky bars or restaurants. Children are more vulnerable to second hand smoke because they breathe more air relative to their bodyweight and thus absorb more tobacco smoke toxins. Their lungs are still developing and one cigarette emits eleven cancer causing poisons and 250 known carcinogen toxins.

States that have recently passed similar legislation:

- California, Louisiana, Arkansas, Maine, Utah, Vermont, Oregon, the Canadian Provinces of Ontario and Nova Scotia along with Puerto Rico have enacted laws.
- The American Lung Association and the American Heart Association support this bill, as well as the CT Police Chiefs Association.

Please contact Representative Henry Genga if you need any additional information: 860-240-8585, 1-800-842-8267 or Henry.Genga@cga.ct.gov or Noreen.Kokoruda@cga.ct.gov