



2014 Alabama Legislative Session Outcome Report

TOBACCO CONTROL

Statewide Smokefree bill – Senate Bill 168

AHA along with coalition advocates worked to defeat weak legislation that failed to **protect all workers** and residents from exposure to secondhand smoke, including those in restaurants and bars. Unfortunately, Senate Bill 168 left too many workers unprotected from secondhand smoke.

SB168 was supported by the tobacco industry and failed to offer comprehensive protections by exempting employees and patrons in bars, cigar bars, and tobacco retail shops. Bar employees and patrons face some of the highest levels of exposure to secondhand smoke. It makes no sense to leave them unprotected. The proposed bill also exempted e-cigarettes. AHA will continue to advocate for the health of every Alabama resident and urge the Alabama Legislature to join 24 states to pass a comprehensive smoke-free law that protects employees and residents from the dangers of secondhand smoke in all workplaces.

OBESITY PREVENTION

Healthy Food Access - House Resolution 261

House Resolution 261 passed which recognizes the intense problem that food deserts have become in the State of Alabama. This resolution calls on all state leaders to improve access to healthy foods for Alabamians and was co-sponsored by: Rep. Napoleon Bracy, Rep. Adline Clark, Rep. Ralph Howard, Rep. David Colston, Rep. Dexter Grimsley, Rep. Lawrence McAdory, Rep. Mary Moore, Rep. Oliver Robinson, Rep. John Rogers, Rep. Patricia Todd and Rep. Barbara Boyd.

This will be an important issue to the AHA moving forward, and we'll keep you posted as lawmakers work on bringing grocery stores and other healthy food options to all Alabamians.

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