

### Going Smoke-Free Just Makes Cents

Numerous studies have shown that businesses that go smoke free suffer no negative economic impact. In many cases, the businesses even see a profit. Going smoke-free cuts both employee and operating costs. Smoke-free environments create healthier employees, who in turn are more productive, have less absenteeism, file fewer worker compensation claims, cost less to insure, and do not turn over as frequently as unhealthy employees. Smoke-free workplaces also need no additional ventilation system and suffer less damage requiring cleaning, repairs, or repainting. Many insurance companies are now rewarding smoke-free restaurants through discounted fire and property insurance rates.

### Myths and Truths

There is a lot of inaccurate information about the impact of creating a smoke-free establishment where smoking was previously allowed. Here are the facts:

**Myth:** Going smoke-free is bad for business.

**Truth:** Studies have shown no negative economic impact for businesses that go smoke-free.

**Myth:** Smokers will not eat at a restaurant with a no-smoking policy.

**Truth:** Many smokers do not like breathing or smelling others' smoke while they dine.

A survey published in the 2003 Zagat Guide to New Orleans Restaurants showed that 70% of those surveyed support complete smoking bans in restaurants.

**Two-thirds of Louisiana residents support smoke-free restaurants.**



Contact us about how this legislation affects you and the public places you visit.

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## THE LOUISIANA SMOKE-FREE AIR ACT



## HOW DOES IT AFFECT RESTAURANTS?



# LOUISIANA STRENGTHENS STATEWIDE SMOKING RESTRICTIONS

Louisiana legislators recently have passed the Louisiana Smoke-Free Air Act in response to Louisiana citizens who want and deserve the right to breathe clean, smoke-free air. This marks a major turning point for our state, placing Louisiana among national leaders in the effort to protect Americans from the dangers of secondhand smoke.



## What is the Louisiana Smoke-Free Air Act?

The Louisiana Smoke-Free Air Act (Act 815) is a statewide law that prohibits smoking in most workplaces and public places including restaurants and bars located within the restaurants.

## When does The Louisiana Smoke-Free Air Act become law?

January 1, 2007.

## What does this mean for my restaurant?

All Louisiana restaurants will be smoke-free.

## How does this impact the patio/outside area of restaurants? Can they be smoke-free?

Outdoor spaces can be designated as either smoking or non smoking by the owner or manager of the restaurant, however, it is the responsibility of the owner or manager to post the appropriate signs in these areas.

## Are the bars inside of restaurants smoke-free?

Yes.

## What about restaurants that have video poker?

They too are smoke-free.

## What should I do to ensure that my restaurant obeys the new law?

Remove ALL ashtrays from the establishment and clearly display No Smoking signs or the international No Smoking Symbol within the restaurant.

## Can I get in trouble if my restaurant does not follow the law?

Yes. There are fines for both smokers and business owners who break the law.

Fines for individuals: \$25 for the first offense, \$50 for the second offense, and \$100 for the third and subsequent offenses.

Fines for employers: \$100 for the first offense, \$250 for the second offense, and \$500 for the third and subsequent offenses.