

**FITCHBURG BOARD OF HEALTH  
REGULATION PROHIBITING SMOKING IN WORKPLACES and PUBLIC  
PLACES**

**SECTION 1**

The purpose of this **regulation** is to protect the health of the employees and general public in the **City of Fitchburg**.

**SECTION 2**

This regulation is promulgated under the authority granted to the **City of Fitchburg** Board of Health pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 111, Section 31. It is also promulgated pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 270, Section 22(j) which states in part that “[n]othing in this section shall permit smoking in an area in which smoking is or may hereafter be prohibited by law including, without limitation: any other law or health regulation. Nothing in this section shall preempt further limitation of smoking by the commonwealth or political subdivision of the commonwealth.

**SECTION 3**

As used in this regulation, the following words shall have the following meanings, unless the context requires otherwise:

**Compensation:** money, gratuity, privilege, or benefit received from an employer in return for work performed or services rendered.

**E-Cigarette:** Any electronic device, not approved by the United States Food and Drug Administration, composed of a mouthpiece, heating element, battery and/or electronic circuits that provides a vapor of liquid nicotine to the user, or relies on vaporization of any liquid or solid nicotine. This term shall include such devices whether they are manufactured as e-cigarettes, e-cigars, e-pipes or under any other product name.

**Employee:** an individual or person who performs a service for compensation for an employer at the employer’s workplace, including a contract employee, temporary employee, and independent contractor who performs a service in the employer’s workplace for more than a *de minimus* amount of time.

**Employer:** an individual, person, partnership, association, corporation, trust, organization, school, college, university or other educational institution or other legal entity, whether public, quasi-public, private, or non-profit which uses the services of one (1) or more employees at one (1) or more workplaces, at any one (1) time, including the **City of Fitchburg**.

**Enclosed:** a space bounded by walls, with or without windows or fenestrations, continuous from floor to ceiling and enclosed by one (1) or more doors, including but not limited to an office, function room or hallway.

**Outdoor space:** an outdoor area, open to the air at all times and cannot be enclosed by a wall or side covering.

**Retail tobacco store:** an establishment that is not required to possess a retail food permit whose primary purpose is to sell or offer for sale to consumers, but not for resale, tobacco products and paraphernalia, in which the sale of other products is merely incidental, and in which the entry of persons under the age of 18 is prohibited at all times, and maintains a valid permit for the retail sale of tobacco products as required to be issued by the **City of Fitchburg** Board of Health.

**Smoking (or smoke):** the lighting of a cigar, cigarette, pipe or other tobacco product or possessing a lighted cigar, cigarette, pipe or other tobacco or non-tobacco product designed to be combusted and inhaled.

**Smoking bar:** an establishment that primarily is engaged in the retail sale of tobacco products for consumption by customers on the premises and is required by Mass. General Law Ch. 270, §22 to maintain a valid permit to operate a smoking bar issued by the Massachusetts Department of Revenue. "Smoking bar" shall include, but not be limited to, those establishments that are commonly known as "cigar bars" and "hookah bars".

**Workplace:** an indoor area, structure or facility or a portion thereof, at which one (1) or more employees perform a service for compensation for an employer, other enclosed spaces rented to or otherwise used by the public; and where the employer has the right or authority to exercise control over the space.

Terms not defined herein shall be defined as set forth in M.G.L. Ch. 270, §22 and/or 105 CMR 661. To the extent any of the definitions herein conflict with M.G.L. Ch. 270, §22 and 105 CMR 661, the definition contained in this regulation shall control.

#### **SECTION 4: SMOKING PROHIBITED**

- (a) It shall be the responsibility of the employer to provide a smoke free environment for all employees working in an enclosed workplace as well as those workplaces listed in subsection (c) below.
- (b) Smoking is hereby prohibited in **City of Fitchburg** in accordance with M.G.L. Ch. 270, §22 (commonly known as the "Smoke-free Workplace Law).
- (c) Pursuant to M.G.L. Ch. 270, §22(j) smoking is also hereby prohibited in
  - 1. Smoking Bars (cigar bars and hookah bars)
  - 2. Retail Tobacco Stores (tobacconists and smoke shops)

3. Municipal owned parks, playgrounds, beaches and athletic fields.
4. Nursing Homes
5. Hotels, Motels, Bed & Breakfast Rooms
6. Outdoor Restaurant and Bar outdoor seating and service areas
7. Public Transportation, bus, and taxi waiting areas.

(d) Private Clubs

1. Smoking is prohibited in the enclosed areas of membership associations, also known as private clubs, except in membership associations which comply fully with Section (2) below in conjunction with an established policy which allows smoking therein.
2. Any membership association which does not completely prohibit smoking in all enclosed areas of such membership association shall be required annually, at its annual meeting, to put a proposal for such a prohibition to a vote of the entire membership present at such meeting and entitled to vote thereat.
  - i. Such proposal shall be decided by a simple majority, and in the case of a tie shall be deemed not to have passed. Said vote shall be by secret ballot. All membership associations conducting such a vote at their annual meeting or other meeting shall report the results thereof to the Fitchburg Board of Health within fourteen (14) days of said meeting.
  - ii. If a vote to prohibit smoking passes, the prohibition on smoking shall become effective no later than the said deadline for notice to the Board of Health.
  - iii. Membership associations with an existing policy in place which completely prohibits smoking in all enclosed areas of such membership association shall be exempt from the requirement herein of putting such proposal to a vote and reporting the results thereof, though nothing contained herein shall be interpreted as prohibiting a membership association with such a non-smoking policy from voting on a proposal to allow smoking in accordance herewith; provided that the results of any such vote, whether at an annual, special or other type of meeting, shall be reported to the Fitchburg Board of Health within fourteen (14) days thereof.
  - iv. It shall be unlawful for any person having control of the premises upon which smoking is regulated or prohibited by or in accordance with this regulation, or the business agent or designee of such membership association, to permit a violation of this regulation.
  - v. In membership associations in which smoking is prohibited pursuant hereto or otherwise, smoking shall be prohibited within eight feet of any entrance to any workplace.

- (e) The use of e-cigarettes is prohibited wherever smoking is prohibited per M.G.L. Ch. 270, §22 and Section 4(c) of this regulation.

## **SECTION 5: ENFORCEMENT**

- (1) An owner, manager, or other person in control of a building, vehicle or vessel who violates this section, in a manner other than by smoking in a place where smoking is prohibited, shall be punished by a fine of:
  - a. \$100 for the first violation;
  - b. \$200 for a second violation occurring within two (2) years of the date of the first offense; and
  - c. \$300 for a third or subsequent violation occurring within two (2) years of the second violation.
- (2) Each calendar day on which a violation occurs shall be considered a separate offense.
- (3) This Regulation shall be enforced by the Board of Health and its designees.
- (4) Violations of Section 4(b) shall be disposed of by a civil penalty using the non-criminal method of disposition procedures contained in Section 21D of Chapter 40 of Massachusetts General Law without an enabling ordinance or by-law. The disposition of fines assessed shall be subject to Section 188 of Chapter 111.
- (5) Violations of Sections 4(a), 4(c) and 4(d) may be disposed of by a civil penalty using the non-criminal method of disposition procedures contained in Section 21D of Chapter 40 of Massachusetts General Law.
- (6) If an owner, manager or other person in control of a building, vehicle or vessel violates this Regulation repeatedly, demonstrating egregious noncompliance as defined by regulation of the Department of Public Health, the Board of Health may revoke or suspend any Board of Health-issued permit to operate and shall send notice of the revocation or suspension to the Department of Public Health.
- (7) Any person may register a complaint to initiate an investigation and enforcement with the Board of Health, the local inspection department or the equivalent.

## **SECTION 6: SEVERABILITY**

If any paragraph or provision of this regulation is found to be illegal or against public policy or unconstitutional, it shall not effect the legality of any remaining paragraphs or provisions.

## **SECTION 7: CONFLICT WITH OTHER LAWS OR REGULATIONS**

Notwithstanding the provisions of Section 4 of this Regulation nothing in this Regulation shall be deemed to amend or repeal applicable fire, health or other regulations so as to permit smoking in areas where it is prohibited by such fire health or other regulations.

**SECTION 8: EFFECTIVE DATE**

Unanimously adopted January 9, 2014 and shall be effective April 1, 2014.

---

Ian J. Murray, Chairman

---

Sandra J. Knipe, R.N., B.S.N, Member

---

Dr. Daria Karos, M.D., Member