

# NJ Assemblywomen Attempt Smoking Ban

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Colleges and universities are always looking for ways to improve their reputations among competition. Whether it's the addition of fresh classes and extra-curricular or providing healthier food options in its cafeteria - all improvements all help in the long run. Now, according to NJ101.5.com, two lawmakers in the state of New Jersey are doing all they can to do away with smoking on all campus grounds in the state.

The new bill co-sponsored by Assemblywomen Celeste Riley and Connie Wagner, will amend the "New Jersey Smoke-Free Air act, which forces campuses to go 100-percent tobacco-free by prohibiting smoking in any area of any building of, or on the grounds of, or in any facility owned, leased, or controlled by, any public or private institution of higher education in this State or a related entity thereof, regardless of whether the area or facility is an indoor public place or is outdoors.

Although college kids who rely on their nicotine for daily stress would be disgruntled, Ethan Hasbrouck with the American Cancer Society says the ban would help prevent health problems in the long run.

"Besides reducing exposure to second hand smoke, smoke and tobacco free campus policies reduce the initiation of tobacco use among young people and assist youth and adults who are trying to quit tobacco use," said Hasbrouck in a newsworks.org announcement.

"This would make them (colleges and universities) smoke-free both private and public," explains Assemblywoman Riley to NJ101.5. "Tobacco-free everywhere on the campus.....Other state properties are that way so we want our colleges and universities to go that route.....We were approached by the American Cancer Society on this particular issue. They really are pushing for this and we support it wholeheartedly."

A spokesman for Rutgers University, James Boyd, sees the ban a little differently than the Assemblywomen. Boyd, commented on the ban stating on how difficult it would be to enforce, campus-wide.

"We have the football games and tailgating and stuff and to enforce on those grounds to walk through and try to get people to stop smoking cigars or whatever during a tailgate," he said.

The Assembly Higher Education Committee discussed the bill this past week, but did not take a vote.

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