



MDDCSAM is the Maryland state chapter of the American Society of Addiction Medicine whose members are physicians and other health providers who treat people with substance use disorders.

HB 766 UNFAVORABLE

Retail Tobacco Businesses and Establishment of a Premium Cigar Lounge Alcoholic Beverages License
House Government, Labor, and Elections Committee. Hearing: February 23, 2026

Greetings Chair Wells and members of the committee

This bill would make exceptions, for the first time, to Maryland's landmark Clean Indoor Air Act (CIAA) of 2007. **This law has provided basic workplace protections for all Maryland workers.**

Many Maryland workers do not want to be exposed to second-hand smoke (SHS), may develop mild or severe symptoms from it (e.g., an asthma attack that can lead to hospitalization or worse), have certain health conditions such as heart or lung disease, prefer not to increase their risk of heart disease, stroke, cancer, ¹ premature death, ² and possibly Alzheimer's disease, ³ know they are pregnant, do not know they are pregnant, and who may not have the option of finding another job.

Also, as a public health measure, clean indoor air protections in Maryland have led to robust declines in tobacco use disorder more effectively than efforts prohibiting tobacco sales to minors. **When smoke-free air rules were implemented leading up to the law's enactment, between 1998 and 2010, the smoking rate in Maryland declined by 32%, double the national average. ⁴**

We respectfully an unfavorable report.

Joseph Adams, MD, FASAM, Addiction & Internal Medicine, Co-Chair, MDDCSAM Public Policy Committee

REFERENCES:

1. (Note that secondhand smoke has been determined by the EPA to be a Class A (known human) carcinogen since 1992, with no safe level of exposure).
Respiratory Health Effects of Passive Smoking: Lung Cancer and Other Disorders. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Respiratory Health Effects of Passive Smoking: Lung Cancer and Other Disorders. EPA/600/6-90/006F, 1992.

2. The U.S. Surgeon General. **Occupational exposure to secondhand smoke is a significant cause of premature death among U.S. workers.** U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. *The Health Consequences of Involuntary Exposure to Tobacco Smoke: A Report of the Surgeon General.* 2006
3. Geto AK et al., The association between air pollution and cognitive impairment: a systematic review and meta- analysis of global studies. Systematic Review. October 2025. BMC Public Health 25, 3548 Volume 25, article number 3548, (2025)
4. Source: Preamble, HOUSE BILL 108 of 2015 in the Maryland General Assembly
https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2015RS/bills/hb/hb0108F.pdf?utm_source=chatgpt.com