

A Resolution relating to smoking in restaurants; encouraging restaurants to place salad bar, buffet, smorgasbord or other common food service areas in nonsmoking areas of the facility; and directing distribution.

WHEREAS, Oklahoma law provides that a restaurant may have designated smoking and nonsmoking areas, or may be designated a totally smoking area or a totally nonsmoking area; and

WHEREAS, in restaurants that have designated smoking and nonsmoking areas, trying to designate a smoke-free section is like trying to have a chlorine-free section of a swimming pool, and the ideal arrangement is for a restaurant to become a totally nonsmoking restaurant; and

WHEREAS, the Environmental Protection Agency reports that exposure to secondhand smoke and the more than 4,000 toxic chemicals floating around in the air as a result of tobacco smoke greatly increases the chances of developing lung cancer and other serious respiratory problems; and

WHEREAS, salad bar, buffet, smorgasbord or other common food service areas of restaurants are frequented by both smokers and nonsmokers, and consideration should be given to minimizing the health risks associated with secondhand tobacco smoke by placing such common food areas in areas of the restaurant that are designated nonsmoking.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE 1ST SESSION OF THE 46TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE:

THAT restaurants are hereby encouraged to place salad bar, buffet, smorgasbord or other common food service areas in designated nonsmoking areas in the restaurant.

THAT a copy of this resolution be distributed to the State Department of Health and the Oklahoma Restaurant Association.

Adopted by the Senate the 17th day of February, 1997.

President of the Senate