

# Senate bill offers non-smokers clean air

**By Mattie Greene**  
staff writer

For years cigaret smoking was the acceptable thing to do and non-smokers suffered in silence.

Then about 20 years ago the first surgeon general's report warned that cigaret smoking could be unhealthy and more recently studies suggest the nonsmoker surrounded by smokers also may be in danger.

Armed with new information and more confidence, non-smokers such as Virginia Simon of Southfield are more openly disapproving of smoking in their presence. As a result, a number of states and communities now have ordinances restricting smoking in public places.

The wave to restrict public smoking began in the early 1970s when Washington's Action on Smoking and Health

persuaded the Civil Aeronautics Board to restrict smoking on airplanes.

Six years ago Michigan enacted a law restricting smoking in food stores, hospitals, restaurants and elevators. Restaurants with more than fifty diners must provide no-smoking areas.

In Southfield there is an ordinance prohibiting smoking in theaters, movie houses and auditoriums. Smoking also is banned in buses, taxicabs, hospitals and rooming houses and other public places designated by the fire chief, according to Southfield City Attorney William Beach.

If state Sen. Jack Faxon, D-Farmington Hills, has his way, smoking will be banned in public places in Michigan. Senate Bill 22, called the Clean Indoor Air Act, currently is stuck in the Senate Committee on Health and Social Services, chaired by Sen. Patrick McCollough, D-Deerborn.

**FAXON AND STAFF** members bristle at the suggestion the bill is a ban on smoking.

The bill gives smokers and non-smokers a choice, said Faxon's legislative aide Gail Kronenberg, who adds that the rights of non-smokers will be upheld if the bill passes.

The bill allows those who wish to smoke, to smoke in a designated area, Kronenberg said. The bill would prohibit smoking in a public place, a retail store, office, commercial establishment, health facility, auditorium, arena, meeting room, at a meeting of a public body, or on public conveyance. This bill gives a private enclosed office occupied by a smoker and used exclusively by that smoker.

A person found violating the law would be fined \$25. Faxon receives many letters in support of the bill, according to Kronenberg, but he urged

those who are in support to send letters to the Senate Committee on Health and Social Services.

Both Minnesota and San Francisco have passed tough anti-smoking laws and Faxon believes Michigan should have a similar statute.

San Francisco's ordinance reaches into the work place. It requires all private employers to provide reasonable accommodations for smokers and non-smokers. If a single non-smoker objects to the arrangement, the employer must ban smoking in the area or face a possible fine of \$50.

Minnesota has the most far reaching of all smoking prohibition laws. Nine years ago the Minnesota legislature passed a law banning smoking in banks, stores, offices and almost any other public space except when expressly permitted. Penalties range from warnings to \$100 fines.

# Information available in financial aid

Help is available for prospective and current college students who are wondering how to apply for financial aid for the 1984/85 academic year and how to complete the complex and lengthy application forms.

Mercy College of Detroit is co-sponsoring a financial aid information session to help students find out what money is available for college and how to obtain tuition funds. Eight workshops will also be offered to help

prospective and current students fill out financial aid application forms.

Current information and procedures for applying for aid will be explained during the Financial Aid General Information Session to be held in Mercy's Health Science Auditorium Wednesday, Jan. 25, 7:30 p.m. The session, open to the public, is being cosponsored by Mercy College of Detroit and the Michigan Student Financial Aid Association.

Prospective Mercy students and their parents as well as current students and their parents are invited to attend one of eight Financial Aid Workshops where individual assistance will be provided to help complete financial aid forms.

The sessions will be held on the following dates: Wednesday, Feb. 1, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.; Friday, Feb. 3, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.; Monday, Feb. 6, 5-7 p.m.; Wednesday, Feb. 8, 5-7 p.m.; Wednesday, Feb. 15, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.; Thursday, Feb. 16, 5-7 p.m.; Monday, Feb. 20, 3-5 p.m.; Monday, Feb. 27, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

All sessions will be held in the Mercy College Conference Center at 8200 W. Outer Drive at the Southfield Freeway, just south of Seven Mile in Detroit. For more information and for reservations, call Mercy's Financial Aid Office, 692-8120.

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