



**Legislative Update  
and Action Alert  
June 25, 2010**

*Please read and forward to your colleagues and networks!*

**In this Issue:**

- **HB 901 – Healthful Living Honors Courses Passes Senate and Goes to Governor for Signature!**
- **SB 1197 – Reinstate Cigarette Stamps and SB 1184 - Equal Tax on Cigars That Look Like Cigarettes**

**HB 901- Healthful Living Honors Course  
Passes Senate!  
Goes to Governor for Signature**

On Wednesday, the Senate Education Committee approved by unanimous voice vote [HB 901- Healthful Living Honors Courses](#). On Thursday, the full Senate gave approval of the bill by a vote of 43 – 0. Because the versions passed by both the House and the Senate were identical, the bill will now be sent to the Governor for signature. Congratulations and many thanks to all the organizations which worked to get HB 901 passed this session and last!

The rationale for creating healthful living honors courses is to offer challenging, rigorous, higher-level healthful living education opportunities for students who aspire to an advanced level of learning and training for allied health professional career tracks. Honors courses will also put this subject area and skill set on par with other academic skill sets.

**Allied Health Professions are the most rapidly growing job opportunities in NC and beyond. Healthful Living Honors Courses can prepare students for careers in the following areas:**

- Exercise physiologist
- Nutrition specialist
- Epidemiologist
- Public health educator
- Sports medicine/athletic trainer
- Sports psychologist
- Strength and condition specialist
- Cardiac rehabilitation specialist
- Physical therapist
- Occupational therapist
- Teachers of health education and physical education
- Doctor

[Click Here](#) to view a final copy of the bill.

[Click Here](#) to view a final history of the bill (votes and other information on the bill's history).

## **Fitness Testing in Schools (HB 1757) Still Expected in House Education Cmt Next**

### **Contact House Education Committee Members!**

Last week the House Health Committee approved by unanimous voice vote HB 1757 – Physical Education and Physical Activity in Schools/Fitness Testing. The bill now goes to the House Education Committee where it could be heard next week. Things are moving quickly at the General Assembly and bills could be heard at any time as we are hearing adjournment could happen as early as July 9. For this reason, we ask that Alliance members and partners contact House Education Committee members about their support of HB 1757 that would require fitness testing in schools as a piece of a comprehensive physical education program.

### **Contact Members of the House Education Committee (by clicking on the name below) to Urge Support for HB 1757**

#### **Members of the House Education Committee:**

Chairman	<a href="#">Rep. Bell</a> (D-Sampson, Wayne)
Chairman	<a href="#">Rep. Lucas</a> (D-Cumberland)
Vice Chairman	<a href="#">Rep. Cotham</a> (D-Mecklenburg)
Vice Chairman	<a href="#">Rep. Fisher</a> (D- Buncombe)
Vice Chairman	<a href="#">Rep. Love</a> (D-Harnett, Lee)
Vice Chairman	<a href="#">Rep. Parmon</a> (D-Forsyth)
Vice Chairman	<a href="#">Rep. Womble</a> (D-Forsyth)
Members	<a href="#">Rep. Adams</a> (D-Guilford)
	<a href="#">Rep. M. Alexander</a> (D- Mecklenburg)
	<a href="#">Rep. Avila</a> (R- Wake)
	<a href="#">Rep. Blackwell</a> (R-Burke)
	<a href="#">Rep. Blackwood</a> (R-Union)
	<a href="#">Rep. Bordsen</a> (D-Alamance)
	<a href="#">Rep. Brown</a> (R-Davidson, Forsyth)
	<a href="#">Rep. Bryant</a> (D-Nash, Halifax)
	<a href="#">Rep. Burris-Floyd</a> (R-Gaston)
	<a href="#">Rep. Carney</a> (D- Mecklenburg)
	<a href="#">Rep. Cleveland</a> (R-Onslow)
	<a href="#">Rep. Dockham</a> (R-Davidson)
	<a href="#">Rep. Dollar</a> (R- Wake)
	<a href="#">Rep. England</a> (D-Rutherford)

[Rep. E. Floyd](#) (D-Cumberland)  
[Rep. Folwell](#) (R-Forsyth)  
[Rep. Gill](#)  
[Rep. Glazier](#) (D-Cumberland)  
[Rep. Goodwin](#) (D-Montgomery, Richmond)  
[Rep. Hall](#) (D- Durham)  
[Rep. Hilton](#) (R-Catawba)  
[Rep. Holloway](#) (R-Rockingham, Stokes)  
[Rep. Hurley](#) (R-Randolph)  
[Rep. Iler](#) (R-Brunswick)  
[Rep. Insko](#) (D-Orange)  
[Rep. Jackson](#) (D-Wake)  
[Rep. Jeffus](#) (D-Guilford)  
[Rep. Johnson](#) (R-Cabarrus)  
[Rep. Langdon](#) (R-Johnston, Sampson)  
[Rep. McCormick](#) (R-Yadkin)  
[Rep. McElraft](#) (R-Carteret, Jones)  
[Rep. McLawhorn](#) (D- Pitt)  
[Rep. Michaux](#) (D- Durham)  
[Rep. Mills](#) (R-Iredell)  
[Rep. Parfitt](#) (D- Cumberland)  
[Rep. Rapp](#) (D-Haywood, Madison, Yancey)  
[Rep. Rhyne](#) (R-Lincoln)  
[Rep. Ross](#) (D-Wake)  
[Rep. Samuelson](#) (R-Mecklenburg)  
[Rep. Stam](#) (R-Wake)  
[Rep. Stewart](#) (D- Nash)  
[Rep. Tarleton](#) (D-Ashe, Watauga)  
[Rep. Tillis](#) (R-Mecklenburg)  
[Rep. Tolson](#) (D-Edgecombe, Wilson)  
[Rep. E. Warren](#) (D-Martin, Pitt)  
[Rep. R. Warren](#) (D-Alexander, Catawba)  
[Rep. Wiley](#) (R-Guilford)  
[Rep. Wilkins](#) (R-Durham, Person)  
[Rep. Yongue](#) (D-Hoke, Robeson, Scotland)

[Click Here](#) to see a full copy of talking points for HB 1757.

## **Cigarette Stamp Bill Heard by Senate Finance Committee, But No Vote Taken**

On Wednesday, June 23, [SB 1197](#) - REINSTATE CIGARETTE TAX STAMPS (Hartsell-R; Clodfleter-D) was heard but not voted on by the Senate Finance Committee. With time running short in this session (we are hearing adjournment could come on or near July 9), it would appear

to be increasingly more difficult to get SB 1197 through both the Senate and the full House before adjournment.

The bill sponsor, Senator Hartsell, opened his presentation on the bill with a [clip from WRAL](#) about smuggling and the fact that our lack of a cigarette stamp facilitates smuggling from North Carolina. The committee took testimony from a variety of attendees: wholesalers and retail merchants opposed the bill while the Fire-Safe Cigarette Coalition and Altria testified in favor of the bill. There was little time for questions from the members of the committee so it was hard to publicly determine whether committee members were supportive or opposed to the bill. And it is unclear whether there will be further hearings or a vote on the cigarette stamp issue this session. We will be checking in with bill sponsors Clodfelter and Hartsell early next week. We will keep Alliance members and partners posted on next steps.

In most states, cigarette stamps are required to be attached to packages of cigarettes as evidence of payment of the cigarette tax (now 45 cents/pack in NC). In 1993, NC's stamp requirement was repealed and now only three states in the nation (North Carolina, South Carolina and North Dakota) do not require cigarette stamps. The lack of the cigarette stamp in NC has allowed NC's relatively inexpensive and low-taxed cigarettes to be bought in large quantities and sold in other states, particularly in northeastern states with higher cigarette taxes. In addition, NC's lack of a cigarette stamp is making it difficult, if not impossible, to enforce our state's new fire-safe cigarette law. Without a mechanism to track cigarettes coming into the state, it is impossible to ensure that the cigarettes coming into the state are actually fire-safe as required by law.

The Alliance supports reinstating NC's cigarette stamp to promote health, safety, crime prevention efforts and increased state revenue. Please [Click Here](#) for talking points on the cigarette stamp issue. Please continue to ask the [Senate Finance Committee](#) to **VOTE** on HB 1197 as soon as possible so that it might make the entire trek thru the legislative process prior to adjournment.

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## **What *MORE* can you do to promote obesity and tobacco use prevention policies before NC's legislative and executive branches?**

Have your organization, its board members, staff and volunteers sign the Alliance's resolutions to demonstrate your support for making North Carolina's worksites and public places smoke-free. Access the resolutions by going to the Alliance's website at:

[Resolution Supporting the Establishment of Science-Based Nutrition Standards for all Food Offered in Schools](#)

[Resolution Supporting 100% Smoke-Free Worksites and Public Places](#)

[Resolution Supporting an Increase in the Cigarette Tax BY at Least \\$1](#)

**See our website for fact sheets, talking points and other resources promoting NCAH policy priorities.**

[www.ncallianceforhealth.org](http://www.ncallianceforhealth.org)

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