

House Resolution 983

By: Representatives Heckstall of the 48th, Post 3, Holmes of the 48th, Post 1, Wilkinson of the 41st, Reece of the 21st, Stanley-Turner of the 43rd, Post 2, and others

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Amending the Rules of the House of Representatives; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, it is almost universally acknowledged that smoking is harmful to the smoker
3 and it has become increasingly acknowledged that exposure to tobacco smoke is harmful to
4 the nonsmoker; and
- 5 WHEREAS, each day during the session, the House of Representatives hosts numerous
6 guests in its chamber and in the chamber's anterooms; and
- 7 WHEREAS, many guests to the House chamber are invited for the purpose of being honored
8 or commended and include children, women who are pregnant, the elderly, and persons in
9 ill health; and
- 10 WHEREAS, while these people are guests within the anterooms of the House they are
11 exposed to smoke from cigarettes and cigars which poses a direct health threat to them; and
- 12 WHEREAS, many of the guests of the House are Georgia's school children, and studies have
13 shown that secondhand smoke is a major cause of adverse health effects in children under
14 18 years of age, including: upper and lower respiratory tract infections, increased fluid in
15 the middle ear, reduced lung function, and additional episodes of asthma; and
- 16 WHEREAS, to continue to allow smoking in the anteroom of the House chamber constitutes
17 a threat to public health and is willfully contrary to the high standards which this body
18 represents.
- 19 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
20 the rules of the House of Representatives are amended by striking Rule 13 and inserting in
21 its place a new Rule 13 to read as follows:

1 "Rule 13. When the House is in session, representatives shall conduct themselves at all
2 times with dignity and in a manner to ensure decorum in the deliberations of the body and
3 shall be called to order by the Speaker for activities to the contrary, including eating at
4 desks, reading newspapers and other materials not pertinent to legislation, unnecessary
5 conversation, and inappropriate dress.

6 The members of the House shall refrain from private conversations and shall preserve
7 silence when another member has the floor and is speaking.

8 There shall be no smoking in the House of Representatives chamber or in the House
9 ~~anteroom on the north side of the House chamber~~ anterooms while the House is in session,
10 or in any committee or subcommittee meeting thereof. There shall be no smoking in the
11 restrooms on the north side of the House chamber while the House is in session."