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1353

2007 HOUSE GOVERNMENT AND VETERANS AFFAIRS

HB 1353

2007 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Bill/Resolution No. HB 1353

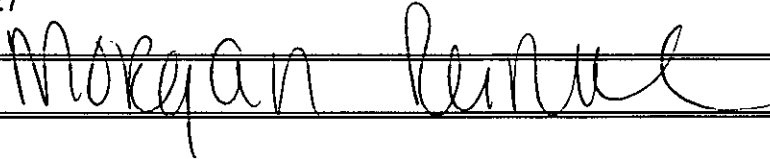
House Government and Veterans Affairs Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Hearing Date: January 25, 2007

Recorder Job Number: 1927

Committee Clerk Signature



Minutes:

Rep. Wrangham: Testimony Attached:

Rep. Dahl: You didn't address section 3 of the bill that won't allow the city, county, or any political subdivision to have any say in what the state allows. Don't you think that's an important issue that you need to address so they can pass their policy?

Rep. Wrangham: I didn't address that part of the bill because it doesn't have the importance that the first part does. I believe that a patchwork of laws around the state is not serving anyone any good. I think we need uniform and I think that if that section can remain in the bill, I could like that. However, if there are those who would like to support the first part of the bill and take that out, I don't have any heartburn over that. However again, I think that again speaking for people who a lot of times don't show up at city commission meetings. I think the legislator is a better place for those kinds of decisions to be made. I understand that it is very debatable. I would like to concentrate on the first part of the bill and again if the second part is giving you a lot of trouble, I would appreciate if you worked on it.

Rep. Kasper: If the bingo halls were allowed to have smoking, would they have to have a separate area, or would it be allowed throughout the whole building, or at the discretion of the bingo hall operator?

Rep. Wrangham: The bill doesn't address that. I think that would be left up to the bingo hall operator. However, if the wisdom of the committee would see fit that it be a separate area and ventilated, I have no problem with that. I think the people that do smoke deserve a place to go smoke and do their social activity.

Nikki Weisman: (North Dakota Hospitality Association). *We would like to support HB 1353.*

Rep. Wrangham pointed out all the facts and necessities of this bill. As you can see they have lost a tremendous amount of money because of this legislation. We would really like to see that you make the positive decision on this bill so I urge you for a do pass.

Rep. Haas: I agree with what you are saying. People that smoke have an addiction and that there should be some consideration. I don't disagree with that. What have all the people done that used to go to bingo parlors, what are they doing now?

Nikki Weisman: There are several casinos around the state they can go to, especially around the border areas. In Bismarck, they are probably just not going. They may have chosen another form of entertainment like the lottery. That is a speculation though. I'm not sure what they are doing, but as far as the dollar goes it shows they are no longer going.

Rep. Froseth: It seems like the biggest complaint we hear is the loss of revenue for the ND association of the disabled. How much of their revenue as derived from the bingo parlors and what other source do they even have to support their programs and causes?

Nikki Weisman: I don't have that information but we certainly can obtain that.

Rep. Froseth: In regards to the emails, most of the ones I've gotten are objecting to the provisions on section 3 where you are taking away the local control from the charter and cities that make the laws. That is where most of my objections I receive come from.

Nikki Weisman: If that was really contingent to this bill it would be ok with us to eliminate that part.

Rep. Grande: I found it interesting that the emails were coming in. They were coming in from a lot of small towns that never did have any local control of this issue at all. They never had and don't plan to at all. I just don't quite understand how the information was presented to them.

Nikki Weisman: No I don't.

Bob Frantsfung: (North Dakota League of Cities)

We are in opposition to this bill primarily because it chases away local control of political subdivisions in making little decisions. I just want to make several comments on smoking bands. Rep. Wolf, you'll remember this. I had a 35 year career with the city of Minot and one of them was smoking. The smoking issue in Minot was a big deal. We had our regulations in place probably about four years before the state passed any legislation. We do have some situations as it relates to the restaurants where they can have smoking and non smoking areas, but they have to have separate air handlers, etc. My recollection is that we only have one facility like that and it is one of the truck stops. Again, our primary concern is that it does remove what we control.

Rep. Kasper: What is your Minot law right now with bingo parlors and your local control?

Bob Frantsfung: I don't play bingo so I don't know if we even have any bingo facilities in the city limits.

Mike Williams: (Fargo city commissioner). *We do not support HB 1353. We do support local authorities who can make these determinations to public safety. Public health and public safety is a primary concern for all of us. I think we should be able to make those determinations to the health of our residents who deserve their rights. Some say we shouldn't have to legislate it because it's a privilege. It's a privilege to have a driver's license, it's not a right. That's the same as having a restaurant or bar. You have to have a license. If you do get a license there are certain things you need to do to maintain the public health like washing dishes? In licensed*

places, where people are working, I think they deserve more public safety. That doesn't hinder anybody's rights, its protecting their rights.

Rep. Boehning: It seems like we keep regulating what is good for us, what is bad for us. We are regulating smoking and saying people can't smoke in any place. If some people have their way we won't smoke anywhere. Another thing I see coming down the pipes is trans fat. The arguments have changed since 20 years ago. Where are our regulations going to stop?

Mike Williams: There is a big difference between trans fats and smoking. When you smoke you are infecting the air around you, the air that other people breathe. You are affecting the public health, the health of other people.

Rep. Boehning: This is their choice just like where you want to eat, what you want to do. I think that is the biggest issue is choice. It is my choice if I want to go to a bingo hall and play bingo and smoke. If I don't want to smoke I don't have to go. If I choose to go to a bar that smokes, it's my choice. It's all about choice. That is my opinion.

Rep. Kasper: Let's say that the city commission of Fargo passed a law that said any bingo parlor in Fargo can only be smoking. You said you want to protect smoker's rights. This would be a law that says all the smokers can go here and its only smoking. Do you think that there would be anybody out in the street that would be forcing people to come in that door?

Mike Williams: The item that you speak about is choice. I'm talking about public safety. You have a choice to what you eat and do.

Rep. Kasper: I'm asking you that if there were a smoking only building that only the people that chose to go in there would. That has been there choice to go inside and be involved with that. Wouldn't that be protecting the smokers rights like you just said you wanted to do?

Mike Williams: I think that smoking is a personal choice and not a public choice. If you want to smoke in your car, than that's fine. But when you get to public places you are affecting public

health. If you want to do what Rep. Kasper suggests, the parlors are well within their rights to go get their petitions, go to the voters, and see if that is what they want.

Rep. Kasper: You are dancing around the issue that you really are not for protecting smoker's rights, if they can only go there and only smokers can be there. Would you agree that when an employer advertises for workers that they come and interview for a job. Say the employer would say that they allow smoking; if this is an objection to you I don't want you to apply for the job. Then the employee said that's ok it doesn't bother me. Would you want to interfere with that opportunity to interfere with the choice if there is a choice, to work or not work?

Mike Williams: Yes, personally I would be in favor of restricting that to happening. It is a licensed facility. It is their number one responsibility to protect the public health.

Rep. Grande: Your main objection is our section 3. If we amend that out are you still in objection?

Mike Williams: Yes. I don't know that you can blame all the loss of revenue of bingo on smoking. One thing that happened with Prairie Public Television was they got over dependent on gambling and quit their fundraising. When that gambling started to dwindle they had no reserve money from the fundraising.

Kayla Gartner: Testimony Attached

Rep. Boehning: Being that you are in the health care business, do you think that we should just ban the product totally? You are going to see the effects of this.

Kayla Gartner: Because I am going into healthcare and there are a lot of decisions. You have to look at what you eat, what you do, if you smoke. You are affecting yourself in what you do. But no I don't think that we should ban it together. If that is someone's lifeline and that is their coping mechanism, then I don't think so. It is their choice just like alcohol. We know it affects

our health. Everyone should have to exercise every day. Everyone has their right and their choice on their own coping mechanisms.

Rep. Boehning: Did you have the option of working some other place that is smoke free?

Kayla Gartner: Actually 90% of the restaurants were smoking. I could have gone and worked at a small restaurant and done a 3 hour shift and made \$25. Or I could decide to work in a smoking restaurant where I would have a 5 hour shift, be exposed to second hand smoke, but walk away with \$120. I guess at that point I wasn't looking at my health issues as much as I was thinking about my family.

David Peske: (North Dakota Medical Association). Testimony Attached.

Rep. Potter: I just want to thank you for bringing that. I was going to ask if there was a bill to help with the tax. I know that in Grand Forks that there is all of this information we have gotten from the bingo people. They were saying that if the state wouldn't take out the tax they take out, that they would be in much better shape.

Rep. Boehning: I didn't see any recommendation on what we should do, as far as banning smoking in the smoke places, or ban smoking all together. Have you come up with a recommendation?

David Peske: On page 14, it looks to me that the right hand column has 10 items that indicate how this could be handled.

Rep. Boehning: So if I can continue, it doesn't really come out and give us a conclusion. Are you going to come out with a real stance on what we should do? Isn't banning smoking totally, the ultimate goal?

David Peske: I think the report of the surgeon general is intended to be a scientific report on the effects of smoking. I don't think he is recommending anything to the various states on what they should do to control this situation.

Rep. Boehning: What is the stance of the other bill? I didn't get a chance to read it. I think the intent of the bill is to take the nicotine out of cigarettes. I had never even thought of doing that. I think it is a very good concept. My understanding is that they wouldn't have to have it after awhile. What is your position on that?

David Peske: I don't think they have taken a position on that issue.

Dr. Herbert Wilson: *I worked 43 years with the people in New Town, and 11 years in Bismarck. I am very much opposed to smoking. I am opposed to this bill. One of the main places people congregate is bingo halls. I haven't any statistics but from my years I can certainly tell a smoker when they came to see me. I'm not here to say much about evidence. I'm here to say that this bill should not be passed. I think that the reducing of nicotine through the years sounds like a good try.*

Rep. Haas: Are there any questions? Is there any additional testimony in opposition of HB 1353? If not we will close the hearing on HB 1353.

2007 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Bill/Resolution No. HB 1353

House Government and Veterans Affairs Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Hearing Date: January 29, 2007

Recorder Job Number: 2029

Committee Clerk Signature

Morgan Reindle

Minutes:

Rep. Haas: We will now open discussion on HB 1353.

Rep. Grande: I would like to make a motion at this point to eliminate Section 3.

Rep. Haas: Rep. Grande is moving to strike section 3, is there a second?

Rep. Froseth: I second that

Rep. Haas: Do you all see what the amendment does? It is striking section 3. Is there any other discussion on the amendment? This pretty much leaves it as it is. Amendment is carried.

We have the bill as amended before us. Is there a motion?

Rep. Dahl: I move a do pass as amended

Rep. Boehning: I second

Rep. Haas: Is there any discussion?

Rep. Karls: So we are actually going to let Bingo places go back to smoking?

Rep. Haas: Yes we are going to leave it to them, but you'll have to be 18 to go in there. Is there any further discussion? I will ask the clerk to take the roll on a do pass as amended on HB 1353.

Rep. Haas: HB 1353 is passed as amended by a vote of 6-5-2. Is there a volunteer to take it

on the floor?

Rep. Kasper: I will carry this bill.

FISCAL NOTE
Requested by Legislative Council
01/19/2007

Bill/Resolution No.: HB 1353

1A. State fiscal effect: *Identify the state fiscal effect and the fiscal effect on agency appropriations compared to funding levels and appropriations anticipated under current law.*

	2005-2007 Biennium		2007-2009 Biennium		2009-2011 Biennium	
	General Fund	Other Funds	General Fund	Other Funds	General Fund	Other Funds
Revenues			\$1,398,000		\$1,398,000	
Expenditures						
Appropriations						

1B. County, city, and school district fiscal effect: *Identify the fiscal effect on the appropriate political subdivision.*

2005-2007 Biennium			2007-2009 Biennium			2009-2011 Biennium		
Counties	Cities	School Districts	Counties	Cities	School Districts	Counties	Cities	School Districts

2A. Bill and fiscal impact summary: *Provide a brief summary of the measure, including description of the provisions having fiscal impact (limited to 300 characters).*

This bill allows smoking in bingo facilities.

B. Fiscal impact sections: *Identify and provide a brief description of the sections of the measure which have fiscal impact. Include any assumptions and comments relevant to the analysis.*

General fund revenues from pull tab excise, bingo and gaming taxes experienced a (\$932,000) reduction for the one year period beginning October 1, 2005 - September 30, 2006, which arguably is attributable to the smoking ban in bingo facilities. If 75% of the decrease is restored with the passage of this bill, it will result in a general fund revenue increase of approximately \$1,398,000 for the 2007-09 biennium.

3. State fiscal effect detail: *For information shown under state fiscal effect in 1A, please:*

A. Revenues: *Explain the revenue amounts. Provide detail, when appropriate, for each revenue type and fund affected and any amounts included in the executive budget.*

Increase in general fund revenues of approximately \$1,398,00 for the 2007-09 biennium based on the assumptions reflected in section 2B.

B. Expenditures: *Explain the expenditure amounts. Provide detail, when appropriate, for each agency, line item, and fund affected and the number of FTE positions affected.*

N/A

C. Appropriations: *Explain the appropriation amounts. Provide detail, when appropriate, for each agency and fund affected. Explain the relationship between the amounts shown for expenditures and appropriations. Indicate whether the appropriation is also included in the executive budget or relates to a continuing appropriation.*

N/A

Name:	Kathy Roll / Keith Lauer	Agency:	Office of Attorney General
Phone Number:	328-3622 / 328-3234	Date Prepared:	01/24/2007

**House Amendments to HB 1353 (70564.0101) - Government and Veterans Affairs
Committee 01/26/2007**

Page 1, line 1, replace the first comma with "and" and remove the second comma

Page 1, line 2, remove "and subsection 2 of section 23-12-10.2"

Page 1, line 3, remove "and local government enforcement of smoking"

Page 1, line 4, remove "restrictions"

**House Amendments to HB 1353 (70564.0101) - Government and Veterans Affairs
Committee 01/26/2007**

Page 4, remove lines 17 through 26

Renumber accordingly

Date:
Roll Call Vote #:

2007 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. "Click here to type Bill/Resolution No."

House Government and Veterans Affairs Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number HB 1353

Action Taken move amendment (strike sect 3)

Motion Made By Rep. Grande Seconded By Rep. Froseth

Representatives	Yes	No	Representatives	Yes	No
Rep. C. B Haas Chairman			Rep. Bill Amerman		
Rep. Bette Grande VC			Rep. Louise Potter		
Rep. Randy Boehning			Rep. Jasper Schneider		
Rep. Stacey Dahl			Rep. Lisa Wolf		
Rep. Glen Froseth					
Rep. Karen Karls					
Rep. Jim Kasper					
Rep. Lisa Meier					
Rep. Dave Weiler					

Total (Yes) _____ No _____

Absent _____

Floor Assignment _____

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:

Date: 1-26-07
Roll Call Vote #: 1

2007 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. "Click here to type Bill/Resolution No."

House Government and Veterans Affairs Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number HB 1353

Action Taken DO pass as amended

Motion Made By Rep. Danl Seconded By Rep. Boehning

Representatives	Yes	No	Representatives	Yes	No
Rep. C. B Haas Chairman		X	Rep. Bill Amerman		
Rep. Bette Grande VC	X		Rep. Louise Potter		
Rep. Randy Boehning	X		Rep. Jasper Schneider		X
Rep. Stacey Dahl	X		Rep. Lisa Wolf	X	
Rep. Glen Froseth		X			
Rep. Karen Karls		X			
Rep. Jim Kasper	X				
Rep. Lisa Meier		X			
Rep. Dave Weiler	X				

Total (Yes) 6 No 5

Absent 2

Floor Assignment Rep. Kasper

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

HB 1353: Government and Veterans Affairs Committee (Rep. Haas, Chairman)
recommends **AMENDMENTS AS FOLLOWS** and when so amended, recommends
DO PASS (6 YEAS, 5 NAYS, 2 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). HB 1353 was placed
on the Sixth order on the calendar.

Page 1, line 1, replace the first comma with "and" and remove the second comma

Page 1, line 2, remove "and subsection 2 of section 23-12-10.2"

Page 1, line 3, remove "and local government enforcement of smoking"

Page 1, line 4, remove "restrictions"

Page 4, remove lines 17 through 26

Renumber accordingly

2007 TESTIMONY

HB 1353

Testimony HB 1353 Representative Dwight Wrangham

Mr. Chairman and committee members before starting my testimony on HB 1353, I would like to make a few preliminary comments. I think it is important that I explain my position and motives for introducing this legislation.

I am not pro smoking. I am pro smoker. What does that mean? It means I want to help them. I want to help smokers quit smoking but I also want them to be able to enjoy their personal rights. They are not breaking a law by smoking. They should be not persecuted.

“Pro smoker” is not a popular position with some crowds but I believe smokers need and deserve a voice.

HB 1353 deals with the smoking ban in charitable bingo halls.

HB 1353 does not deal with whether a person should smoke. It only deals with smoking in bingo halls.

It allows charitable bingo halls to offer a smoking area if they agree to not allow anyone under 18 years of age on the premises. Currently there is no age limit to enter a bingo hall.

It does not mandate smoking in bingo halls, it only permits bingo operators to have a smoking area if they chose.

How did the 2005 smoking ban effect charitable bingo halls???

Hand outs: Revenue sheet
Williston closed
Newspaper articles

I assume the reason receipts fell more drastically in Grand Forks and Fargo is because bingo players there had the option of going to Minnesota. If I remember correctly there was a bingo hall in East Grand Forks that used to be open two days a week. After the North Dakota Smoking ban it is open seven days a week.

I hope there are some bingo hall operators here to testify on the good charitable things they have **not** been able to do because the smoking ban has dried up their funds. But, I won't be surprised if they don't testify because they have been so attacked and demeaned by the anti smoker group.

I am not here to defend smoking. I am not pro smoking. I want to be pro active in finding ways to help smokers who want to quit. And, most of all I support efforts to educate our youth about the health and addiction pitfalls of smoking. We need to stop the increasing numbers of youth smoking. We can only do that through education. Attacking and demoralizing smokers has not worked.

We need to be proactive in helping smokers quit and preventing youth from started. How? Well, this session I introduced HB 1410 which would have required cigarette manufacturers to limit amount and over a period of years eliminate the nicotine in cigarettes. Nicotine is the addictive substance in cigarettes. Manufacturers are adding nicotine, adding addiction to cigarettes. I was very disappointed when I received no help from the agencies and associations who claim to be anti smoking.

Those groups will probably be here today to try to stop this bill and further attack smokers. Where were they on HB 1410 which could have helped the victims of nicotine addiction? Yes, I am disappointed they were not there to support 1410, I stand just as ready today as I have been in the last year to work with these groups and try to find positive actions to help smokers quit and prevent youth from starting.

Driving people out of the bingo halls and closing down charitable funding is not an answer to the smoking problem. Like it or not people smoke, bingo player's smoke. Banning them from bingo halls is not the answer. Let the bingo hall operators decide.

Those who want to avoid second hand smoke have every right to do so. Please consider, it may be easier for them to avoid second hand smoke than it is for a victim of nicotine addiction to quit smoking. People who just look down their nose and say "those people should just quit" are not being compassionate or understanding the addiction.

You have received a number of canned e-mails asking you to oppose this legislation. I ask you to ask those e-mailers one question; When is the last time they were in a bingo hall. I am sure a vast majority would say they have never been in a bingo hall. Let the people who frequent the bingo hall decide by their patronage whether there should be smoking or not.

Please support HB 1353

WHAT DID THE SMOKING BAN DO TO CHARITABLE BINGO HALLS

	Net Income 04 - 05	Net Income 05 - 06	Decrease	% Decrease
NDAD GF	222,419	-27,833	250,252	113%
Plains Art	155,905	7,785	148,120	95%
Prairie Public	390,060	238,357	151,703	39%
NDAD Minot	368,743	171,293	197,450	54%

Bingo

Continued from Page B1

The Bingo Barn paid more than \$100,000 in a year in various state taxes during the fiscal year from July 1, 2005, to June 30, 2006.

WSC Foundation, the North Dakota Association for the Disabled and Williston Basin Skating Association each operate bingo one night a week at the Bingo Barn. Williston limits organizations to one night a week.

NDAD president Ron Gibbons said the financial crunch has been the worst for his organization because NDAD's large gaming revenues statewide put it in a higher tax bracket.

NDAD's Bingerama in Minot is not in danger of closing, though, he said.

"The one in Minot actually has been hit hard. We have been making about half the budget we used to make. Yet we are making a good profit. We are doing OK," he said.

NDAD also has a bingo parlor in Grand Forks that is breaking even, he said.

Closing the Bingo Barn won't affect services to clients in Williston, Gibbons said. NDAD already has cut back services statewide because of the drop in bingo income.

"We will continue to do what we can across the state," Gibbons said. "We will continue to serve people in Williston as much as we can."

The WSC Foundation's gaming generates money for scholarships. Bingo has provided nearly a third of the organization's gaming income in the past. Bingo income has dropped from \$93,000 to \$50,000 a year to \$20,000 to \$25,000, Stevens said.

The money going to scholarships doesn't reflect actual income, though. The law requires that 51 percent go to charitable purposes, regardless of taxes and other expenses.

"We are just having a terrible time making our expenses," Stevens said.

The Bingo Barn employs about 20 part-time employees.

NDAD, which owned the Bingo Barn, sold the building to a gymnastics club.

If the Legislature changes the tax structure, NDAD would be interested in reviving its bingo in Williston, Gibbons said.

The WSC Foundation is looking for another bingo site, but the cost of rent has been prohibitive, Stevens said.

The skating club, which supports youth hockey, couldn't be reached Monday for information on its plans. However, Rosie Marquez, gaming manager for the foundation and skating club, said in a prepared statement that bingo players will miss the Bingo Barn.

"Bingo is a social time for many people. The Bingo Barn closing is going to have a huge impact on the lives of many of the bingo players," she said.

closes

BY JILL SCHRANN

Staff Writer

jrschrann@minotdailynews.com

Williston's Bingo Barn will close Saturday after 20 years of operation.

The three charities that run the bingo say they were forced into the decision by declining revenue. High state taxes and decreased attendance resulting from a state-imposed smoking ban put their bingo in financial jeopardy, they said.

Carvin Stevens, executive director of the Williston State College Foundation, one of the charitable operators, said attendance used to run 100 to 130 people a night. After a law restricting smoking in bingo parlors and other public buildings took effect in August 2005, attendance fell to 50 to 80 people per night. At fewer than 80 people, it is difficult to cash flow, Stevens said.

He added that charitable gaming organizations plan to ask the 2007 Legislature for tax relief.

Currently, the state donates taxes bingo and parlors, the two forms of gaming typically offered at bingo parlors, he said. In addition to the state gaming tax, bingo carries sales tax and pulls a 5 percent excise tax.

"That's just killing these bingo barns," Stevens said. "I don't think we can continue to pay that tax level and continue to make it."



Ken Crites/NDN

Bingo Bennie hangs out in this place, Bingorama, on Minot's southeast edge. The North Dakota Association for the Disabled conducts charitable gambling in the form of bingo in the building at 1808-20th Ave. SE. Bingorama has been put in a crunch by a law that goes into effect next month that bans smoking in most public places.

Bingo in a bind

By **KEN CRITES**

Staff Writer

kcrites@ndweb.com

Bingo Bennie is in a bind under the "B."

Bennie is hurting, or at least stands to hurt, because of a law passed by recent North Dakota Legislature that bans smoking in most public buildings.

Bennie is the mascot for the North Dakota Association for the Disabled's charitable gaming operations conducted at Bingorama, located at 1808-20th Ave. SE, in Minot. Bennie appears in TV commercials and print ads.

The Ward County Commission Tuesday also found itself between a rock and a hard place in trying to help NDAD out of its dilemma.

The new law does not exempt bingo halls from the smoking ban, and Janelle Mitzel, representing NDAD, told the commissioners Tuesday that a majority of its customers, about 78 percent, smoke while playing bingo. She said they might go elsewhere if they can't play at Bingorama.

The law exempts bars from the smoking ban. She said studies have shown

More prisoners, more trash

Ward County commissioners were talking trash Tuesday.

It seems that the dramatic increase in prisoners in the county jail has also dramatically increased the amount of trash generated.

Building supervisor Ron Overly brought the matter to the board's attention. He said going to a larger dumpster would cost an additional \$50 a month.

Overly was instructed by the board to "git'er done."

decreases in revenues at non-smoking bingo halls.

And, if NDAD has to fold its operation, more than 40 employees might find themselves out of a job. In addition, NDAD pays about \$9,000 in taxes.

Because the law does exempt bars and taverns from the smoking ban, NDAD, in a bid to remedy the situation, asked the board of commissioners to issue them a liquor license so the bingo games could