

..TITLE

Amending Title XXIII Public Health Safety and Welfare of the Legislative Code to add Chapter 222, titled Smoking of Tobacco, Cannabis, and Hemp Products in City Owned Public Places Parks and Certain Building Entrances Prohibited.

..BODY

SECTION 1

~~WHEREAS, on May 30, 2023, Governor Tim Walz signed into law House File 100 relating to the possession, sale, and adult use of cannabis; and~~

~~WHEREAS, House File 100, Article 4, Section 15, allows that a local unit of government may adopt an ordinance establishing a petty misdemeanor offense for a person who unlawfully uses cannabis flower or cannabis products in a public place; and~~

~~WHEREAS, House File 100, Article 1, Section 74 declares that any use of cannabis which is injurious to health, indecent or offensive to the senses, or an obstruction to the free use of property so as to interfere with the comfortable enjoyment of life or property is a nuisance; and~~

WHEREAS, Saint Paul has a vested interest to promote, protect, and improve the health of people, communities, and the environment; and

WHEREAS, The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention indicate secondhand marijuana smoke contains many of the same toxic and cancer-causing chemicals found in tobacco smoke and contains some of those chemicals in higher amounts; and

WHEREAS, Saint Paul recognizes that the secondhand effect of smoking tobacco and cannabis in public places possess a threat to public health and safety; and

WHEREAS, Saint Paul has a commitment to protect community members younger than 21 years old from the exposure to tobacco and cannabis smoking; Now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Council of the City of Saint Paul does hereby ordain:

SECTION 2

~~Saint Paul Legislative Code Title XXIII Public Health Safety and Welfare is amended to add Chapter 222, titled Smoking of Tobacco, Hemp and Cannabis Products in City Controlled Public Places Prohibited.~~

Title XXIII, Public Health Safety and Welfare is hereby amended to add Chapter 222, titled Smoking of Tobacco, Cannabis, and Hemp Products in City Parks and Certain Building Entrances Prohibited as follows:

Sec. 222.01 Definitions.

City Controlled Public Places. As used in this Section, City Controlled Public Places includes all areas contained within the City of Saint Paul's boundaries that are owned, leased, managed, rented, contracted, or otherwise controlled by the City of Saint Paul.

Smoking. Inhaling, exhaling, vaping or combustion of any cigar, joint, blunt, cigarette, pipe or any other similar article. Smoking includes possessing or carrying a lighted cigar, cigarette, pipe or any other lighted or heated product or electronic delivery device.

(1) Designated smoking area means an area where smoking would otherwise be prohibited under this Chapter but is allowed and clearly marked by a sign.

(2) Park means and includes all the public grounds, trails, and squares maintained as pleasure grounds and designated recreation areas by the City of Saint Paul.

(3) Place of employment means as defined in Minn. Stat. Section 144.413, subd. 1b, as amended from time to time.

(4) Public place means as defined in Minn. Stat. Section 144.413, subd. 2, as amended from time to time.

(5) Smoking means inhaling, exhaling, vaping or combustion of any cigar, joint, blunt, cigarette, pipe or any other similar article. Smoking includes possessing or carrying a lighted cigar, cigarette, pipe or any other lighted or heated product or electronic delivery device.

Sec. 222.02. Smoking of Tobacco, Hemp and Cannabis in City Controlled Public Places Prohibited.

Sec. 222.02 Smoking of Tobacco, Cannabis, and Hemp in City Parks and Certain Business Entrances Prohibited

It is unlawful to smoke tobacco as defined in Minn. Stat. Section 609.685, cannabis flower, cannabis products, and hemp derived consumer products, as defined in Minn. Stat. Section 342.01, in any City Controlled Public Place in the City of Saint Paul.

(1) It is unlawful to smoke tobacco as defined in Minn. Stat. Section 609.685, cannabis flower, cannabis products, and hemp derived consumer products as defined in Minn. Stat. Section 342.01, in any Park within the City of Saint Paul.

(2) It is unlawful to smoke tobacco as defined in Minn. Stat. Section 609.685, adult use cannabis flower, adult use cannabis products, and hemp derived consumer products as defined in Minn. Stat. Section 342.01, within twenty-five (25) feet of entrances, exits, windows, and ventilation intakes of public places and places of employment within the City of Saint Paul.

Sec. 222.03. Penalty.

Violation of this Section is a petty misdemeanor.

Sec. 222.03 Exceptions

The prohibitions in Sec. 222.02 do not apply to the following places or situations:

(1) Within designated smoking areas in Parks as determined by the Director of the Department of Parks and Recreation and clearly marked with a sign.

(2) Use of tobacco as part of an American Indian cultural practice or a lawfully recognized religious, spiritual, or cultural ceremony or practice. Sacred, traditional use of tobacco for prayer, ceremony, and memorial is allowed.

(3) Within areas where smoking is prohibited under Sec. 222.02 subdivision 2 that are not immediately next to a building entrance, and that the owner or proprietor of a public or private building has determined to be a designated smoking area and clearly marked with a sign.

Sec. 222.04. Penalty. Enforcement

Violation of this Chapter is a petty misdemeanor.

Violation of this Chapter will be enforced through education and requesting voluntary compliance. Where appropriate, the preferred method of enforcement will be a request for voluntary compliance. Any person who violates this Ordinance will be reminded of its requirements and asked to immediately stop smoking or using commercial tobacco products.

After a request for voluntary compliance, violation of this Chapter is a petty misdemeanor.

SECTION 3

This Ordinance shall take effect and be in force thirty (30) days following passage, approval, and publication.