



Marge Pitrof

## Senate Approves Statewide Smoking Ban

By Marge Pitrof

May 13, 2009 | WUWM | Milwaukee, WI

The Wisconsin Senate has approved a statewide smoking ban in all workplaces, including bars and restaurants. If the Assembly concurs, the ban would take effect in July, 2010. Smokers could be fined up to \$250 for violating the ban. Businesses that don't try to stop smokers would be warned the first time, and then fined \$100 for a second offense.

Senator Fred Risser, the bill's author, says it will save lives and money spent on health care.

Under the plan, local governments could not pass regulations stricter than the state law, except for rules covering government property.

The Assembly is expected to consider an identical bill before the day is over.

© 2009 Board of Regents University of Wisconsin System - WUWM FM