



I hope each and every one of you had a Joyful Holiday Season! Now that the new year has already begun, here are two new laws passed in the 2014 session that will possibly affect your operations.

First, the “No Smoking within State Buildings” now to include Colleges, Universities and Hospitals and a distance restrictions will be enforced by the State Fire Marshals. Smoking will be prohibited within 25 feet of public entrances to state office buildings. Passage was a victory for Rep. Frank Hoffmann, R-West Monroe, who spent years trying to add the restriction as a way to lessen exposure to secondhand cigarette smoke. A person violating the new law can be fined \$25 for a first offense, \$50 for a second offense and \$100 for subsequent offenses.

Second, State agencies must now post on their internet websites certain information about proposed rules and fees they are in the process of adopting, amending or repealing. Included must be a brief description and links to such information as the current rule and fee, name and contact information of the person responsible for responding to inquiries, public hearing information and anticipated effective date of the change. If an agency doesn't have a website, the department under which it falls is required to post the information.

In closing, we are all working hard to do more with less. Hopefully, the State Spending Moratorium will be over soon and we all can enhance our programs. For some of you with extended life experience working for the state, have come to learn the “Ins and Outs” for surviving budgets cuts and might like to share these tidbits with us all. In closing, PRIMA would like to extend to you the hope for a prosperous and successful New Year!