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NJ Assembly votes to ban smoking at all parks and beaches

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TRENTON — People who light up at a park or beach in New Jersey could see their money go up in smoke under a bill quickly advancing through the state Legislature.

The state Assembly today passed a bill (**A1080**) to ban smoking at all public parks and beaches by a vote of 67-7 with 4 abstentions. Smokers would face fines ranging from \$250 to \$1,000.

Anti-smoking advocates said the ban would “generate health, environmental and economic benefits.”

“It normalizes smoke free outdoor environments where children engage in recreational activities, reducing the likelihood they’ll start smoking,” said Karen Blumenfeld, executive director of Global Advisors on Smokefree Policy, in a statement.

The state already bans smoking in indoor public places. The bill would apply to all parks and beaches run by the state, counties or towns.

Offenders would face a \$250 fine for the first offense, \$500 for the second and \$1,000 for any more.

Anti-smoking advocates say at least 220 of New Jersey’s 565 towns already ban smoking in parks, while at least 14 towns ban smoking on their beaches.

http://www.nj.com/politics/index.ssf/2014/03/nj_assembly_votes_to_ban_smoking_at_all_parks_and_beaches.html#incart_m-rpt-1