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## Recent Legislative Activity

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# RECENT LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITY

by *Andre Brady*

## Tobacco

The Department of Health and Human Services issued a final rule which requires states to have in effect laws which prohibit the sale of tobacco products to minors as a condition of receipt of a block grant.

In order for a state to receive a block grant, for the first applicable fiscal year and subsequent fiscal years, it must have a law that prohibits any manufacturer, retailer, or distributor of tobacco products to sell or distribute their products to any individual under age 18. The prohibition relates to any sales or distribution outlet, including over-the counter and vending machine sales. For the first and second applicable fiscal years, the state must annually conduct reasonable random, unannounced inspections of outlets to ensure compliance. For the third and subsequent fiscal years, the state must conduct annual, random, unannounced inspections and submit a report detailing the state's activities to enforce the law. February 20, 1996 was the effective date. **61 FR 1492 (No. 13). West's Congressional and Administrative Highlights, February 14, 1996, p. xxiii.**

## Athletic trainers

The Illinois Department of Professional Regulation has revised the regulations governing athletic trainers to implement P.A. 89-0216, the sunset rewrite of the Illinois Athletic Trainers Practice Act. Major changes include: 1) licensure of athletic trainers instead of registration; 2) setting of fees by the rule rather than by the Act; 3) raising from 800 to 1,500 the number of hours of training needed for licensure; and 4) establishing continuing education requirements for renewal of a license beginning with the May 31, 1998 renewal period. **Illinois Register, February 9, 1996, p. 2408. West's Illinois Newsletter, February 28, 1996, p. 7.**

## Emergency medical services

The Illinois Department of Public Health has implemented P.A. 89-0177, which substantially revised the Emergency Medical Services ("EMS") Systems Act. Section 3.15 of the revised Act requires that the Depart-

ment, beginning September 1, 1995, designate EMS Regions within the State, consisting of specific geographic areas encompassing EMS Systems and trauma centers in which emergency medical services, trauma services, and nonemergency medical services are coordinated under an EMS Region Plan. **Illinois Register, February 16, 1996, p. 3203. West's Illinois Newsletter, March 6, 1996, p. 5.**

## Food Service Sanitation

The Illinois Department of Public Health has amended its regulations to clarify the discrepancy between Food Service Sanitation Code section 750.110(d), which requires all meat of mammalian and avian origin to be inspected, and section 3(a-5) of the Good Samaritan Food Donor Act, which allows uninspected wild game to be served at special events such as wild game dinners, provided a notice is present stating that the game is uninspected. The amendments also require retail food stores that want to begin using preservatives in curing operations to obtain prior approval from the local health department in their jurisdiction, with final approval from the Department. The curing operations must be based on a comprehensive Hazardous Analysis Critical Control Point Plan. **Illinois Register, February 16, 1996, p. 3210. West's Illinois Newsletter, March 6, 1996, p. 2.**

## Environmental health practitioners

The Illinois Department of Professional Regulation has issued regulations to govern the processing of licenses for environmental health practitioners. P.A. 87-1223, effective January 1, 1993, and as amended by P.A. 89-0061, provides for the licensure of environmental health practitioners. A grandfather period for licensure will run through December 31, 1996. **Illinois Register, February 9, 1996, p. 2400. West's Illinois Newsletter, February 28, 1996, p. 7.**