

ASSEMBLY, No. 5028

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 218th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 7, 2019

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman RAJ MUKHERJI

District 33 (Hudson)

Assemblyman HERB CONAWAY, JR.

District 7 (Burlington)

Assemblywoman ELIANA PINTOR MARIN

District 29 (Essex)

SYNOPSIS

Establishes “James Nicholas Rentas’s Law,” revises “New Jersey Smoke-Free Air Act.”

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 5/14/2019)

A5028 MUKHERJI, CONAWAY

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1 AN ACT concerning smoking at airports and amending P.L.2005,
2 c.383.

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4 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
5 of New Jersey:

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7 1. Section 4 of P.L.2005, c.383 (C.26:3D-58) is amended to
8 read as follows:

9 4. a. Smoking is prohibited at the following locations: [in] an
10 indoor public place, [or] a workplace, [or at], a public park or
11 beach, and the outdoor passenger pick-up and drop-off area of an
12 airport that is not owned or operated by a federal or military
13 authority, except as otherwise provided in this act.

14 (cf: P.L.2018, c.64, s.3)

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16 2. This act shall take effect 180 days after enactment.

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STATEMENT

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21 This bill establishes “James Nicholas Rentas’s Law,” and revises
22 the “New Jersey Smoke-Free Air Act.” Under the bill, smoking is
23 prohibited within the outdoor passenger pick-up and drop-off area
24 of an airport that is not owned or operated by a federal or military
25 authority.

26 The bill is named in memory of the late James Nicholas Rentas,
27 a spirited, gregarious, and hardworking restaurateur and
28 businessman who was a staple of the Bayonne community. Mr.
29 Rentas smoked cigarettes for 30 years and possessed the
30 determination and fortitude to quit smoking following a heart attack
31 at age 50. He later died in 2007 after being diagnosed with
32 colorectal cancer a decade after quitting cigarettes. Physicians
33 attributed his death in part to tobacco use.

34 According to the American Cancer Society, smoking tobacco
35 increases the risk of developing and dying from colorectal cancer.
36 A Centers for Disease Control and Prevention study documented
37 that secondhand smoke from designated smoking areas can infiltrate
38 nonsmoking areas in airports, which exposes nonsmoking travelers
39 and employees to tobacco smoke.

40 Secondhand smoke causes an estimated 34,000 heart disease
41 deaths and 7,300 lung cancer deaths each year in the United States.
42 Exposure to secondhand smoke from burning tobacco products
43 causes premature death and disease including coronary heart
44 disease, stroke, and lung cancer among nonsmoking adults. In
45 children, it can cause sudden infant death syndrome, acute

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

1 respiratory infections, middle ear disease, exacerbated asthma,
2 respiratory symptoms, and decreased lung function.

3 While airports in New Jersey are subject to an indoor smoking
4 ban, families are still exposed to secondhand smoke at airport curbs
5 and while waiting at indoor baggage claim areas where secondhand
6 smoke infiltrates from the outside.