



May 5, 2009

Editorial: Short-notice hearings are a disservice

If you didn't know about a 10 a.m. hearing today on the proposed smoking ban bill, it might be because it was just scheduled on Monday.

Many lawmakers have no problem scheduling short notice public hearings, but it's a disservice to the public.

We've encouraged the Legislature to approve a statewide smoking ban for public settings and this measure, Senate Bill 181, would prohibit smoking in indoor areas, sports arenas, public conveyances and at some outdoor locations. But we believe the public ought to be given reasonable time to attend and participate in these hearings.

Wisconsin law requires 24-hours public notice, so the Senate Committee on Health, Health Insurance, Privacy, Property Tax Relief and Revenue, by offering public notice Monday morning, met the letter of the law.

Short-notice hearings may not be problematic to those in Dane County who wish to attend, but most of Wisconsin lies beyond Madison.

Short-notice hearings ought to be the exception, not the rule.

Additional Facts

Our View

Fair public notice
