

# Governor pushes **smoking ban**

DAILY TRIBUNE STAFF

MADISON — Gov. Jim Doyle said Monday there is no reason the state Legislature can't vote on a statewide smoking ban soon, possibly within the next week. A local Tavern League official thinks that's a bad idea.

One of the biggest sticking points with the smoking bill is what to do with taverns that don't want to be included in the ban, which would apply to all bars, restaurants and workplaces.

A ban could hurt local

bars and restaurants that allow smoking, said Dave Hahn, vice president of the Wood County Tavern League and former owner of Horsin' Around Saloon in Pittsville.

A smoking ban should apply to public buildings, not private structures open to the public, he said.

"They are private businesses. They should be able to run the business the way they see fit," Hahn said.

Even though Doyle called on the Legislature to pass the proposal, it is highly unlikely to happen next week, given strong opposi-

tion and where the bill is in the legislative process.

Two senators working on reaching a deal — Roger Breske, D-Eland, and Fred Risser, D-Madison — met Monday and promised to talk again Wednesday. Breske, who wants an exemption for taverns, said he and Risser agreed not to talk about their discussions for now. One possible solution would be to phase in the exemption for taverns.

Illinois and Minnesota recently have passed comprehensive smoking bans.

— *The Associated Press* contributed to this article.