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Eagle may be first Idaho city to ban smoking

The City Council could vote as early as Tuesday, but you still have time to have a say.

BY COLLEEN LAMAY - clamay@idahostatesman.com

The City Council could vote as early as Tuesday, but you still have time to have a say.

The ordinance, which could take effect almost immediately, would ban smoking in virtually all work places, public and private, and limit outdoor smoking in the city limits. Smokers could still light up at private residences.

Smokers who violate the ordinance would get a written warning for the first offense, a \$25 fine for the second offense and \$50 fines for subsequent offenses.

"The campaign for Smokefree Idaho is thrilled that the Eagle City Council is considering a comprehensive indoor smoking ban," campaign manager Shauneen Grange said in an e-mail. "We believe that this will protect all workers in Eagle from the dangers of secondhand smoke and save lives."

Smokefree Idaho is working with Meridian, Boise and other Ada County cities to pass similar bans.

Several Boise bar owners say they fear losing business if a ban passes.

At least 331 communities, none in Idaho, along with 18 states have smoke-free policies that include bars.

The Eagle council, at its 6:30 p.m. meeting, can either read the draft ordinance again or skip readings and go straight to a vote.

The city will accept written testimony from the public until 5 p.m. Tuesday. You can e-mail it to eaglecity@cityofeagle.org, fax it to 939-6827 or drop it off at 660 E. Civic Lane.

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