

Summary
Board Bill Number 167
Introduced by Alderman Rasheen Aldridge
February 13, 2026

An ordinance **amending** ordinance number 68481 to create a limited exemption for convention facilities within the City of St. Louis for certain private events or trade shows. The exemption applies only under specified circumstances and is intended to allow flexibility for convention-related activities while maintaining the overall purpose and enforceability of existing regulations; including a severability clause.

**BOARD BILL NUMBER 167 INTRODUCED BY ALDERMAN RASHEEN ALDRIDGE
CO-SPONSORS: ALDERWOMAN JAMI COX ANTWI**

1 An ordinance **amending** ordinance number 68481 to create a limited exemption for convention
2 facilities within the City of St. Louis for certain private events or trade shows. The exemption
3 applies only under specified circumstances and is intended to allow flexibility for convention-
4 related activities while maintaining the overall purpose and enforceability of existing regulations;
5 including a severability clause.

6 **SECTION ONE. Section Seven of Ordinance 68481 is hereby amended to read as follows:**

7 SECTION SEVEN. Where Smoking Not Regulated

8 Notwithstanding any other provision of this Ordinance to the contrary, the following areas shall
9 be exempt from the provisions of Sections Four and Five:

- 10 1. Private residences, except when used as a licensed childcare, licensed adult day care, or
11 licensed health care facility.
- 12 2. Not more than twenty percent (20%) of hotel and motel rooms rented to guests and designated
13 as smoking rooms. All smoking rooms on the same floor must be contiguous and smoke from
14 these rooms must not infiltrate into areas where smoking is prohibited under the provisions of
15 this Ordinance. The status of rooms as smoking or nonsmoking may not be changed, except to
16 add additional nonsmoking rooms.
- 17 3. Private clubs that have no employees, except when being used for a function to which the
18 general public is invited; provided that smoke from such clubs does not infiltrate into areas
19 where smoking is prohibited under the provisions of this Ordinance. This exemption shall not
20 apply to any organization that is established for the purpose of avoiding compliance with this
21 Ordinance.
- 22 4. Outdoor areas of places of employment.
- 23 5. Tobacco retail stores as defined by this Ordinance.

1 6. Casino gaming areas as defined by this Ordinance.

2 7. Bars in existence on the effective date of this ordinance in which only persons aged twenty
3 one (21) years old or older are permitted to enter the premises, the square footage of the entire
4 floor area of the level of the building on which the bar establishment is located is two thousand
5 (2000) square feet or less. The square footage shall not include kitchen areas, storage areas and
6 bathrooms. The bar shall prominently display outside of the premises at each entrance and above
7 the bar the following sign in lettering that is black bold Arial font at (ninety-eight) 98 point size:
8 “WARNING : SMOKING ALLOWED HERE”. This exemption for bars shall expire five (5)
9 years after the effective date of this ordinance.

10 **8. A Convention Facility as defined by this ordinance, located within the City of St. Louis**
11 **may host a time-limited, private and ticketed, specialized convention involving on-site**
12 **smoking activities only upon satisfaction of all requirements set forth in this subsection.**
13 **Such exemption shall apply solely to the duration of the permitted private event and or**
14 **trade show and shall not constitute a permanent exemption from the requirements of this**
15 **ordinance.**

16 **The exemption may be granted only if the Convention Facility demonstrates compliance**
17 **with the following smoke mitigation measures:**

18 **a. Installation and operation of a temporary or permanent ventilation and air**
19 **filtration system designed to capture and exhaust tobacco smoke, including but not**
20 **limited to HEPA filtration and negative air pressure systems;**

21 **b. Physical separation of smoking-permitted areas from non-smoking areas by fully**
22 **enclosed barriers;**

1 **c. Posting of clear signage notifying attendees and workers of smoking-permitted**
2 **areas;**

3 **d. Implementation of worker protection measures, including the right of employees**
4 **to opt out of assignment to smoking-permitted areas without penalty.**

5 **SECTION TWO. Severability Clause**

6 The provisions of this ordinance shall be severable. In the event that any provision of this
7 ordinance is found by a court of competent jurisdiction to be unconstitutional, the remaining
8 provisions of this ordinance are valid unless the court finds the valid provisions of this ordinance
9 are so essentially and inseparably connected with, and so dependent upon, the void provision that
10 it cannot be presumed that the Board of Aldermen would have enacted the valid provisions
11 without the void ones or unless the Court finds that the valid provisions, standing alone, are
12 incomplete and incapable of being executed in accordance with the legislative intent. .