

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Minimal fiscal impact, no statement issued

Action: Do Pass

Vote: 10 - 0 - 0

Yeas: Barton, Cowan, Gilliam, Krieger, Matthews, Riley, Tomei, Weidner, Wingard, Holvey

Nays: 0

Exc.: 0

Prepared By: Victoria Cox, Administrator

Meeting Dates: 1/23, 1/28

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Prohibits the sale, distribution, import or manufacture for sale in Oregon of novelty lighters. Creates civil penalties for violations not to exceed \$500 per day for a retailer or distributor, \$1000 per day for a wholesaler, and \$10,000 per day for a manufacturer or importer. Authorizes the State Fire Marshal to define “novelty lighter” by rule and to create and maintain a list of products meeting the definition. Allows the State Fire Marshall or a designated representative to conduct inspections to ensure compliance, seize and destroy listed products, and request the Attorney General to seek injunctive relief. Sets the operative date for provisions related to the seizure of listed products as 90 days after the measure’s effective date. Declares an emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Majority of youth-set fires are started with lighters
- Difficulty in distinguishing between toys and toy lighters
- Bill does not ban possession
- No known opposition

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: A major focus of juvenile firesetter intervention is to teach the difference between lighters as adult tools and toys, which can be blurred when lighters look like toys. Recent action by the European Union to ban novelty lighters may increase exports of such products to the United States.

Eighteen other states are considering similar legislation and four Oregon cities have adopted bans or resolutions on novelty lighters.