

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Minimal fiscal impact, no statement issued

Action:	Do Pass as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed
Vote:	7 - 0 - 1
Yeas:	Berger, Edwards C., Garrard, Gelser, Nolan, Read, Roblan
Nays:	0
Exc.:	Jenson
Prepared By:	Jerry Watson, Administrator
Meeting Dates:	5/15

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Prohibits title transfer of a single family dwelling or multi-family housing containing a carbon monoxide source unless there are properly functioning carbon monoxide detectors at locations that provide carbon monoxide detection for all sleeping areas. Allows for civil action to recover damages, attorney fees, and costs for violation of the statute. Allows State Fire Marshall to adopt rules establishing standards for carbon monoxide detectors and requires adoption of rules for alarms in existing housing. Requires landlord in multifamily housing to maintain carbon monoxide detectors in units; prohibits tampering with installed detectors. Requires all rental housing to have alarms in place by April 1, 2011.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Work group that developed amendments to measure
- Effects and frequency of carbon monoxide poisoning
- Efficacy of alarm equipment

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Removes enforcement authority from State Fire Marshal's Office. Includes requirements for carbon monoxide alarms in new residential construction to take effect April 1, 2011. Updates real estate disclosure form to include carbon monoxide alarms effective April 1, 2011. Requires State Fire Marshal to establish rules for carbon monoxide alarms in existing housing. Requires all rental housing to have alarms in place by April 1, 2011. Prohibits real estate transfer without alarm beginning April 1, 2011.

BACKGROUND: The death of a family of four from carbon monoxide poisoning in Colorado has resulted in new or pending legislation similar to House Bill 3450-A in Colorado and Washington; approximately half the states regulate carbon monoxide in some manner. According to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), carbon monoxide is the leading cause of accidental poisoning deaths in America. It claims 500 lives annually and sends another 20,000 people to the emergency room. Four individuals died in Oregon last year as a result of carbon monoxide poisoning.

Most carbon monoxide incidents happen during the winter months, mainly due to the increased use of fuel burning appliances. When breathed in, carbon monoxide rapidly accumulates in the blood and bonds with hemoglobin the bloodstream displacing the oxygen that cells need to function. At high concentration levels carbon monoxide can be fatal in minutes. Symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning mimic the flu with headache, nausea and dizziness the most commonly reported symptoms. Because of the flulike symptoms carbon monoxide poisoning is often misdiagnosed, according to the CDC.

5/18/2009 4:37:00 PM

This summary has not been adopted or officially endorsed by action of the committee.