

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Minimal fiscal impact, no statement issued

Action: Do Pass with Amendments to the A-Eng. Measure (Printed B-Eng.)

Vote: 4 - 0 - 1

Yeas: Burdick, Ferrioli, Metsger, Devlin

Nays: -

Exc.: Atkinson

Prepared By: Erin Seiler, Administrator

Meeting Dates: 6/1

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Prohibits title transfer of single family dwelling or multi-family housing containing 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 violations. 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 multi-family 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. Declares an emergency; effective upon passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Effects of carbon monoxide poisoning
- Reliability of carbon monoxide detectors
- States with similar legislation
- Sources of carbon monoxide in houses and apartments

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Resolves conflict.

BACKGROUND: 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. In 2008, four people in Oregon died of carbon monoxide poisoning and it was the death of a family from Oregon, on vacation in Colorado, that has led to legislation requiring installation of carbon monoxide detectors in Colorado and Washington; approximately half the states regulate carbon monoxide in some manner.

Incidents of carbon monoxide poisoning are most common in the winter months because of the increased use of fuel burning appliances. When carbon monoxide is inhaled, it rapidly accumulates in the blood and bonds with hemoglobin in 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.

House Bill 3450-B requires single or multi-family dwellings with a carbon monoxide source to maintain a properly functioning carbon monoxide detector at locations that provide carbon monoxide detection for all sleeping areas.

6/4/2009 10:42:00 AM

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