

**REVENUE:** No revenue impact

**FISCAL:** May have fiscal impact, statement not yet issued

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**Action:** Without Recommendation as to Passage and Be Referred to the Committee on Rules

**Vote:** 9 - 0 - 0

**Yeas:** Boone, Cowan, Dembrow, Freeman, Huffman, Maurer, Olson, VanOrman, Tomei

**Nays:** 0

**Exc.:** 0

**Prepared By:** Keely West, Administrator

**Meeting Dates:** 4/8, 4/27

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**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. Requires landlord in multifamily housing to maintain carbon monoxide detectors in units; prohibits tampering with installed detectors.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Effects of carbon monoxide poisoning
- Frequency of carbon monoxide poisoning
- Efficacy of alarm equipment
- Cost of enforcement

**EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:** No amendment.

**BACKGROUND:** The death of a family of four from carbon monoxide poisoning in Colorado has resulted in new or pending legislation similar to HB 3450 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. Last year four individuals died in Oregon as a result of carbon monoxide poisoning.

Most carbon monoxide incidents happen during the winter months, mainly due to an increased use in fuel burning appliances. When breathed in, carbon monoxide 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.