



SENATOR  
**JOHN GARAMENDI**  
SENATE MAJORITY LEADER

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GARAMENDI INTRODUCES BILL TO REQUIRE  
"FIRE-SAFE" CIGARETTES IN CALIFORNIA

(San Francisco) Senate Majority Leader John Garamendi (D-Walnut Grove) today announced he has introduced legislation, Senate Bill 197, to require that only "fire-safe" cigarettes be sold in California by mid-1987.

In a press conference from San Francisco General Hospital, Senator Garamendi said it was time to address the source of the needless loss of innocent lives and property due to unattended cigarettes in the state.

"Cigarette fires are the number one preventable cause of fatal home fires in California," Garamendi said. "Had cigarettes been required to meet certain performance standards in 1981, it's quite possible that the 17 firemen and two civilians who were injured, the two citizens who lost their lives, and the over \$1 million in property damage in San Francisco might not have occurred that year.

"Passing this legislation will give cigarette manufacturers ample time to extend "fire-safe" techniques already used in some marketed cigarettes to all brands sold in California."

The Garamendi bill would require the State Fire Marshal to establish performance standards by June 1985 for cigarettes sold in California to ensure that the present high tendency of cigarettes to ignite bedding and upholstered furniture would be substantially reduced.

"This is not an anti-smoking bill, nor is it legislation designed to address any health issue," Garamendi said. "This is a fire-prevention bill aimed at saving lives and property before they are lost.

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In 1981, 76 people lost their lives statewide due to cigarette-ignited fires. Nationally, a total of 1,622 Americans died from the same causes.

Joining the Senator in the press conference were County Supervisor Quentin Kopp, San Francisco Fire Chief Emmet Condon, Fire Marshal Joseph Medina, and Dr. Donald Trunkey, Chief of Surgery of San Francisco General Hospital. Earlier in the day, a press conference was also held in Los Angeles.

Similar legislation has been introduced at the federal level by U.S. Senator Alan Cranston (D-California).

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