



National Volunteer Fire Council

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FACT SHEET H.R. 673

The Fire Safe Cigarette Implementation Act of 1989

Summary

In the fall of 1984, the major national fire protection organizations joined with the tobacco industry to support a federal study to determine if, and how, cigarettes might be made more fire safe. With that, the Cigarette Safety Act of 1984 became law.

In December 1987, the Interagency Committee on Cigarette and Little Cigar Fire Safety, which was created by the 1984 Act, reported to Congress that certain characteristics of cigarettes can be modified experimentally to reduce their ignition propensity.

In its report, the Interagency Committee made six recommendations. These recommendations included the development of a "validated test method" to measure reliably the propensity of cigarettes to ignite upholstered furniture and mattresses; the testing of smoke from modified cigarettes; data collection and analysis; and continuing research to improve the tracking of cigarette-related fires over time.

Within weeks, legislation was drafted, then refined, to implement the Interagency Committee's recommendations.

By April 1988, Reps. Frederick Boucher (D-VA) and Tom Bliley (R-VA) introduced H.R. 4497, the "Fire Safe Cigarette Implementation Act of 1988," which was assigned to the Commerce and Energy Committee. Co-sponsors of the bill included Congressional Fire Services Caucus founder Rep. Curt Weldon (R-PA).

The Boucher/Bliley bill has been reintroduced in the 101st Congress as H.R. 673. A Senate companion is expected soon.

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Endorsements

Many fire service organizations have joined the National Volunteer Fire Council in endorsing the Boucher/Bliley federal legislation and urging its prompt passage. Included are:

- o International Association of Fire Fighters (AFL-CIO)*
- o International Society of Fire Service Instructors*
- o Great Lakes Division, International Association of Fire Chiefs*
- o California State Firemen's Association, Inc.
- o New York State Association of Fire Chiefs*
- o Firemen's Association of the State of New York
- o Fire Districts Association of New York
- o Firemen's and Fire Marshals' Association of Texas*
- o Illinois Fire Inspectors Association*
- o Connecticut State Firemen's Association*
- o New Jersey Paid Chiefs Association
- o Keystone State Fire Chiefs Association (Pennsylvania)*
- o Pennsylvania State Fire Fighters Association (AFL-CIO)*
- o Firemen's Association of the State of Pennsylvania*
- o Firemen's Legislative Federation of Pennsylvania*
- o Charles A. Henry, Pennsylvania State Fire Commissioner, Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency*
- o Oregon Fire Chiefs' Association*
- o Oregon Fire Education Association*
- o Olin L. Greene, Oregon State Fire Marshal*
- o Washington State Fire Fighters' Association, Inc.*
- o Delaware Volunteer Firemen's Association*
- o Richard C. Lamb, Fire Chief of Wayne Township, Indiana*
- o South Carolina State Firemen's Association*

*Written endorsement received

The National Volunteer Fire Council is not aware of state or national fire service organizations that have endorsed any other federal legislation on this issue.

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