

FEB 06 2007

SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL TO STUDY THE
IMPACT OF CIGARETTE FIRE SAFETY STANDARDS ESTABLISHED IN
OTHER STATES.

1 WHEREAS, the Legislature finds that cigarettes are the
2 leading cause of fire deaths in the nation; and
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4 WHEREAS, each year, seven hundred to nine hundred people
5 are killed in the United States due to cigarette fires, and
6 three thousand are injured in fires ignited by cigarettes; and
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8 WHEREAS, a high proportion of the victims of cigarette
9 fires are non-smokers, including senior citizens and young
10 children; and
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12 WHEREAS, cigarette-caused fires result in billions of
13 dollars in property loss and damages in the United States and
14 thousands of dollars in this State; and
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16 WHEREAS, in Hawaii, for the three-year period of 2003-2005,
17 there were two hundred sixteen cigarette-caused fires, resulting
18 in \$283,570 in property damage and three civilian injuries; and
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20 WHEREAS, in addition, cigarette fires unnecessarily
21 jeopardize firefighters and result in avoidable emergency
22 response costs for Hawaii's county fire departments; and
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24 WHEREAS, the Legislature further finds that the state of
25 New York enacted a cigarette fire safety regulation, effective
26 June 28, 2004, which requires that cigarettes sold in that state
27 meet a fire safety performance standard; and
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29 WHEREAS, in 2005, the states of Vermont and California
30 signed into law cigarette fire safety acts that directly
31 incorporate New York's regulation into statute, and in 2006, the
32 states of Illinois, New Hampshire, and New Jersey did the same;
33 and
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1 WHEREAS, Canada implemented the New York fire safety
2 standard as of October 2005, becoming the first nation to have a
3 cigarette fire safety standard; and
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5 WHEREAS, the Legislature finds that New York's cigarette
6 fire safety standard is based upon decades of research by the
7 National Institute of Standards and Technology, congressional
8 research groups, and private industry; and
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10 WHEREAS, the Legislature further finds that the State of
11 Hawaii could benefit from comparable cigarette fire safety
12 standards to reduce the likelihood that cigarettes will cause
13 fires and result in deaths, injuries, and property damage; now,
14 therefore,
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16 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fourth
17 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2007,
18 that the Department of the Attorney General is requested to
19 study the impact of cigarette fire safety standards established
20 in other states and Canada; and
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22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of the Attorney
23 General, in consultation with the Department of Health, the
24 Department of Taxation, and the State Fire Council, is requested
25 to determine how these standards could be adopted in Hawaii,
26 with a minimum of cost to the State, and with minimal burden to
27 cigarette manufacturers, distributors, and retail sellers; and
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29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of the Attorney
30 General is requested to report its findings and recommendations
31 to the Legislature not later than twenty days before the
32 convening of the Regular Session of 2008; and
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34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
35 Resolution be transmitted to the Attorney General, Director of
36 Health, Director of Taxation, and Chair of the State Fire
37 Council.
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OFFERED BY:

