

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2009

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HOUSE BILL 1905*

Short Title: Fire Safe Cigarettes. (Public)

Sponsors: Representatives Insko, England (Primary Sponsors); M. Alexander, Glazier, Harrison, Hughes, Luebke, and Martin.

Referred to: Insurance, if favorable, Finance.

May 20, 2010

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO AMEND THE FIRE-SAFETY STANDARD AND FIREFIGHTER
3 PROTECTION ACT, AS RECOMMENDED BY THE PUBLIC HEALTH STUDY
4 COMMISSION.

5 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

6 SECTION 1. G.S. 58-92-10 reads as rewritten:

7 "§ 58-92-10. Definitions.

8 For the purposes of this Article:

9 (1) "Agent" means any person authorized by the Department of Revenue to pay
10 the excise tax on packages of cigarettes.

11 (1a) "Brand style" means a variety of cigarettes distinguished by the tobacco
12 used, tar and nicotine content, flavoring used, size of the cigarette, filtration
13 on the cigarette, or packaging.

14 (2) "Cigarette" means any roll for smoking, whether made wholly or in part of
15 tobacco or any other substance, irrespective of size or shape, and whether or
16 not such tobacco or substance is flavored, adulterated, or mixed with any
17 other ingredient, the wrapper or cover of which is made of paper or any
18 other substance or material, other than leaf tobacco.

19 (3) "Commissioner" means the Commissioner of Insurance.

20 (4) "Consumer testing" means an assessment of cigarettes that is conducted by a
21 manufacturer (or under the control and direction of a manufacturer), for the
22 purpose of evaluating consumer acceptance of such cigarettes.

23 (5) "Distributor" means any person other than a manufacturer who sells
24 cigarettes or tobacco products to retail dealers or other persons for purposes
25 of resale, any person who owns, operates, or maintains one or more cigarette
26 or tobacco product vending machines in, at, or upon premises owned or
27 occupied by any other person, or a distributor as defined in
28 G.S. 105-113.4(3)a.

29 (6) "Manufacturer" means:

30 a. Any entity ~~which that~~ manufactures or otherwise produces cigarettes
31 or causes cigarettes to be manufactured or produced anywhere that
32 ~~such the~~ manufacturer intends to be sold in this State, including
33 cigarettes intended to be sold in the United States through an
34 importer;

35 b. The first purchaser anywhere that intends to resell in the United
36 States cigarettes manufactured anywhere that the original



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- 1 manufacturer or maker does not intend to be sold in the United
2 States; or
- 3 c. Any entity that becomes a successor of an entity described in
4 sub-subdivision a. or b. of this subdivision.
- 5 (7) "Quality control and quality assurance program" means the laboratory
6 procedures implemented to ensure that operator bias, systematic and
7 nonsystematic methodological errors, and equipment-related problems do
8 not affect the results of the testing. Such a program ensures that the testing
9 repeatability remains within the required repeatability values stated in
10 G.S. 58-92-15(g) for all test trials used to certify cigarettes in accordance
11 with this Article.
- 12 (8) "Repeatability" means the range of values within which the repeat results of
13 cigarette test trials from a single laboratory will fall ninety-five percent
14 (95%) of the time.
- 15 (9) "Retail dealer" means any person, other than a manufacturer or distributor,
16 engaged in selling cigarettes or tobacco products.
- 17 (10) "Sale" means any transfer of title or possession or both, exchange or barter,
18 conditional or otherwise, in any manner or by any means whatever or any
19 agreement therefor. In addition to cash and credit sales, the giving of
20 cigarettes as samples, prizes, or gifts, and the exchanging of cigarettes for
21 any consideration other than money, are considered sales.
- 22 (11) "Sell" means to sell, or to offer or agree to do the same."

23 **SECTION 2.** G.S. 58-92-20 reads as rewritten:

24 **"§ 58-92-20. Certification and product change.**

25 (a) Each manufacturer shall submit to the Commissioner a written certification attesting
26 both of the following:

- 27 (1) Each cigarette listed in the certification has been tested in accordance with
28 G.S. 58-92-15.
- 29 (2) Each cigarette listed in the certification meets the performance standard set
30 forth in G.S. 58-92-15.

31 (b) Each cigarette listed in the certification shall be described with the following
32 information:

- 33 (1) Brand or trade name on the package.
- 34 (2) ~~Style, such as light or ultralight.~~ Brand style, as defined in
35 G.S. 58-92-10(1a).
- 36 (3) Length in millimeters.
- 37 (4) Circumference in millimeters.
- 38 (5) Flavor, such as menthol or chocolate, if applicable.
- 39 (6) Filter or nonfilter.
- 40 (7) Package description, such as soft pack or box.
- 41 (8) Marking pursuant to G.S. 58-92-25.
- 42 (9) The name, address, and telephone number of the laboratory, if different than
43 the manufacturer that conducted the test.
- 44 (10) The date that the testing occurred.

45 (c) Certifications shall be made available to the Attorney General for purposes
46 consistent with this Article and the Commissioner for the purposes of ensuring compliance with
47 this section.

48 (d) Each cigarette certified under this section shall be recertified every three years.

49 (e) For each ~~certification form~~, brand style listed in a certification, a manufacturer shall
50 pay to the Commissioner a fee of two hundred fifty dollars (\$250.00). The Commissioner may

1 annually adjust this fee to ensure it defrays the actual costs of the processing, testing,
2 enforcement, and oversight activities required by this Article.

3 (f) There is established in the State treasury a separate, nonreverting fund to be known
4 as the "Fire Safety Standard and Firefighter Protection Act Enforcement Fund." The fund shall
5 consist of all certification fees submitted by manufacturers and shall, in addition to any other
6 monies made available for such purpose, be available to the Commissioner solely to support
7 processing, testing, enforcement, and oversight activities under this Article.

8 (g) If a manufacturer has certified a cigarette pursuant to this section, and thereafter
9 makes any change to such cigarette that is likely to alter its compliance with the reduced
10 cigarette ignition propensity standards required by this Article, that cigarette shall not be sold
11 or offered for sale in this State until the manufacturer retests the cigarette in accordance with
12 the testing standards set forth in G.S. 58-92-15 and maintains records of that retesting as
13 required by G.S. 58-92-15. Any altered cigarette ~~which~~ that does not meet the performance
14 standard set forth in G.S. 58-92-15 ~~may~~ shall not be sold in this State."

15 **SECTION 3.** This act becomes effective July 1, 2010.