
HOUSE BILL 1824

State of Washington

64th Legislature

2015 Regular Session

By Representatives Takko, Johnson, Van De Wege, Fitzgibbon, Kochmar, Ryu, Goodman, and McBride

Read first time 01/29/15. Referred to Committee on Local Government.

1 AN ACT Relating to promoting fire safety with long-life smoke
2 detection devices; adding a new section to chapter 19.27 RCW; and
3 creating a new section.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature recognizes that the
6 lack of properly working smoke alarms poses a serious threat.
7 National fire protection association statistics indicate that ninety-
8 four percent of households in the United States have smoke detectors,
9 but thirty percent of those alarms are inoperable. The death rate per
10 one hundred reported fires is twice as high in homes without working
11 smoke alarms as it is in home fires with protection. Further, two-
12 thirds of all home fire deaths occur in residences with no smoke
13 alarm or no working smoke alarm, primarily due to dead or missing
14 batteries. The legislature finds that smoke alarms with nonremovable,
15 nonreplaceable batteries eliminate the need to replace the battery,
16 something many homeowners fail to do.

17 (2) The average time to escape in a residential fire is about
18 three minutes. A working alarm that can give advance warning to alert
19 residents of a fire incident is important to reduce fatality and
20 injury of both residents and firefighters and allow firefighters to
21 more rapidly control the fire.

1 (3) In one recent incident in the Auburn area, an eight-unit
2 apartment burned and all eight smoke alarms were inoperable. A
3 December 2013 Bellingham fire in a home that contained a smoke alarm
4 with no battery took the life of nineteen year old Adam LaVine. It is
5 the intent of the legislature to prevent similar tragedies from
6 happening in the future.

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 19.27
8 RCW to read as follows:

9 (1) Commencing July 1, 2017, all smoke alarms that are solely
10 battery powered, including combination smoke alarms offered for
11 retail sale in this state for the purpose of installation in
12 residential buildings, must contain a nonreplaceable, nonremovable
13 battery capable of powering the smoke alarm for a minimum of ten
14 years.

15 (2) Commencing July 1, 2017, all smoke alarms or combination
16 smoke alarms must:

17 (a) Display the date of manufacture;

18 (b) Provide a place on the device where the date of installation
19 can be written. The date of installation must be visible to the
20 consumer without removing the alarm from its base or mounting
21 bracket; and

22 (c) Incorporate a hush feature.

23 (3) Subsections (1) and (2) of this section do not apply to:

24 (a) Smoke detectors intended to be used with a fire alarm or
25 household fire alarm control unit;

26 (b) Smoke alarms that send a supervision and battery depletion
27 signal to a fire alarm or household fire alarm control unit via a
28 low-power wireless communication signal;

29 (c) Smoke alarms that use low-power radio frequency wireless
30 communication signal for interconnection;

31 (d) Smoke alarms that use a low-frequency audible alarm used by
32 the hearing impaired or elderly that enhance waking effectiveness;

33 (e) Smoke alarms with multisensing technologies; or

34 (f) If a retailer can show proof that a product prohibited for
35 sale under this section was in stock and physically in the retail
36 location before the effective date of this section, that retail
37 location may sell that product until it is sold out, or until July 1,
38 2017.

1 (4) After July 1, 2017, the authority having jurisdiction may
2 impose a civil penalty for a violation of this section. However, a
3 written warning notice must be issued for a first violation.

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