



## Senate

General Assembly

**File No. 194**

February Session, 2000

Senate Bill No. 577

*Senate, March 22, 2000*

The Committee on General Law reported through SEN. COLAPIETRO of the 31<sup>st</sup> Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the bill ought to pass.

### ***An Act Concerning Fire Retardant Furniture.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 21a-232 of the general statutes, as amended by sections 2  
2 and 3 of public act 99-274, is amended by adding subsection (p) as  
3 follows:

4 (NEW) (p) On and after January 1, 2002, no person shall sell  
5 bedding made of material that is not fire retardant or chemically  
6 treated to be fire retardant as provided in regulations that the  
7 commissioner shall adopt, in accordance with the provisions of chapter  
8 54, on or before January 1, 2001.

**GL Committee Vote:** Yea 15 Nay 0 JF

The following fiscal impact statement and bill analysis are prepared for the benefit of members of the General Assembly, solely for the purpose of information, summarization, and explanation, and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either House thereof for any purpose:

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**OFA Fiscal Note**

**State Impact:** Potential Minimal Revenue Gain

**Affected Agencies:** Department of Consumer Protection

**Municipal Impact:** None

**Explanation****State Impact:**

The bill prohibits selling upholstered furniture and bedding with material that is not fire retardant, and requires the commissioner of the Department of Consumer Protection (DCP) to adopt implementing regulations. It is anticipated that the department can adopt regulations within its existing budgetary resources, thus there is no fiscal impact. The commissioner may impose a civil penalty of up to \$200 for violations of this bill, which may result in a minimal revenue gain, the extent of which can not be determined as it is dependant on the number of violations that occur and the amount of penalties imposed.

**OLR Bill Analysis**

SB 577

***AN ACT CONCERNING FIRE RETARDANT FURNITURE.*****SUMMARY:**

This bill prohibits selling upholstered furniture and bedding with material that is not fire retardant or chemically treated to be fire retardant. The prohibition applies to mattresses, pillows, cushions, quilts, beds, bed pads, comforters, sleeping bags, upholstered spring beds, box springs, davenports, bedsprings, metal couches, metal beds, metal cradles, hammock pillows, and upholstered furniture. The bill requires the consumer protection commissioner to adopt implementing regulations by January 1, 2001.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2000

**BACKGROUND*****Enforcement***

Under the law concerning bedding and upholstered furniture, the consumer protection commissioner may examine the contents of any bedding or fill material he believes may be made or sold in violation of the law. The law requires bedding and upholstered furniture manufacturers to obtain a license from the commissioner. He may revoke or suspend it for violation of the bedding and upholstered furniture law. He can also impose a civil penalty of up to \$200 for a violation and ask the attorney general to seek temporary or permanent restraining orders.

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

General Law Committee

Joint Favorable Report  
Yea 15 Nay 0