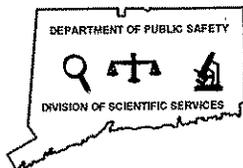


STATE OF CONNECTICUT



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

John A. Danaher III
Commissioner

Lieutenant Edwin S. Henion
Chief of Staff

February 24, 2009

Rep. Stephen Dargan, Co-Chairman
Sen. Andrea Stillman, Co-Chairman
Public Safety and Security Committee
Legislative Office Building
Hartford, CT 06106

SB 907 AN ACT BANNING THE SALE OF NOVELTY LIGHTERS

This proposed bill would ban the sale of novelty lighters in the state because of the danger such lighters pose to public safety. Figurines of rubber ducks, micro-sized motorcycles and miniature cameras can be amusing play things for children, unless they shoot real flames that burn tiny fingers and set houses on fire.

Examples of novelty lighters being sold include: tiny replicas of milk and juice cartons, rifles, pistols, animals, cell phones, toy cars, paint brushes, felt tip pens, small tools, power drills and even Sparky the Fire Dog pressing his red fire helmet triggers a flame to shoot from his mouth. These items are currently being sold in the State of Connecticut. Most consumers and retailers are not aware of the danger they can pose in a child's hands.

Unfortunately, there are no firm statistics as to how many fires in Connecticut have been caused by children playing with these devices. The forms that are completed by fire departments and sent to the State Fire Marshal's Office designate a cause for the fire as "children playing with matches and lighters". It does not break down the types of lighters that cause those fires, or how many are started by a match or lighter. Clearly though, Connecticut should take what steps it can to discourage the design and marketing of cigarette lighters made to look like a child's toy.

Lighters are tools for adults not toys for children.

Sincerely,

John A. Danaher III
COMMISSIONER

Department of Public Safety

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