

Environment Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: SB-752

AN ACT CONCERNING SMOKING AND VAPING ON BEACHES IN STATE

Title: PARKS.

Vote Date: 2/25/2019

Vote Action: Joint Favorable Substitute

PH Date: 2/4/2019

File No.: 55

***Disclaimer:** The following JOINT FAVORABLE Report is prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and does not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose.*

SPONSORS OF BILL:

Environment Committee

Rep. Josh Elliott, 88th Dist.

REASONS FOR BILL:

Smoking has long been considered a health hazard, whether through direct inhalation or from secondhand smoke. Many private and public facilities ban smoking in, near and around them. Additionally, the littering of cigarette butts causes environmental concerns for local ecosystems and wildlife. The bill seeks to address such concerns by prohibiting smoking on beaches located in state parks.

Substitute Language – LCO No. 4697

Testimony shared by the State of Connecticut Judicial Branch suggests the committee clarify if the offense of the provisions of the bill would constitute an infraction and if such infraction is payable by mail. Substitute language states all second and subsequent violations after the first are infractions payable by mail. Additionally, substitute language adds section 1 of the bill to a list of other infractions payable by mail listed in subsection (b) of section 51-164(n) of the general statutes.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

State of Connecticut Judicial Branch, External Affairs Division: Provided comment on the bill. The bill should state if (1) offense of the provisions of the bill would constitute a violation, (2) clearly state if such violation is an infraction, and (3) that fines are dispensed in accordance with section 51-164(n) if such violation is an infraction payable by mail.

Additionally, if the infraction is intended to be payable by mail, it would not be appropriate for the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection to determine the amount of the infraction. Section 51-164(m) identifies such responsibilities to Superior Court judges.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

Ruth Canovi, Director of Public Policy, American Lung Association: Significant progress has been made in recent decades changing the social norms of tobacco use. Three hundred municipalities across the country and the state of Maine have implemented tobacco free policies on beaches. The benefits for these policies are improved public health, reduced youth addiction to nicotine, and significantly reduced litter (cigarette butts) on state beaches.

Senator Mae Flexer, 29th Senate Dist.: Cigarettes possess a public health hazard in the form a second hand smoke, particularly for small children. This is concerning because Connecticut's sixty-two public beaches host thousands of visitors annually. Additionally, the general perception of ocean pollution is in regards to plastic trash; however, cigarette butts make up a large portion of the beach litter. Data collected by the Ocean Conservancy identified 2,412,151 cigarette butts collected globally on a single day in September 2017.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

None Expressed.

Reported by: Steve Smith / Ussawin R. Bumpen Date: 3/28/2019