

Environment Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: SB-1001

AN ACT CONCERNING THE RECYCLING AND DISPOSAL OF SMOKE

Title: DETECTORS.

Vote Date: 3/18/2019

Vote Action: Joint Favorable

PH Date: 3/11/2019

File No.: 568

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

Environment Committee

REASONS FOR BILL:

Due to potential radioactive materials contained in smoke detectors, questions as to how an individual properly dispose of, or recycle, smoke detectors was brought before the Environment Committee. The bill seeks to answer the question by requiring the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection to submit a report to the Environment Committee by February 1, 2020.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

None Expressed.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

Donna Hamzy Carroccia, Advocacy Manager, Connecticut Conference of Municipalities (CCM): Supports the creation of a program similar to the recycling of mattresses and paint in the state. If properly designed, a smoke detector stewardship program would reduce the burden of financial and administrative requirements to local governments.

Jennifer A. Heaton-Jones, Executive Director, Housatonic Resources Recovery Authority, (HRRRA): Members of the public often ask HRRRA how to recycle or dispose of smoke detectors. The most common type of smoke detector is an ionization detector which

contains a small amount of Americium 241. These items are not accepted at most household hazardous waste collections. HRRRA would support an extended producer responsibility program to require that manufacturers establish a collection system for the recovery of smoke detectors.

Kim O'Rourke, Recycling Coordinator, City of Middletown: Smoke detectors are incredibly difficult to dispose properly. They should not be disposed of in the trash; however, they are also not accepted at the household hazardous waste collection. An extended producer responsibility program for smoke detectors would create a viable option for residents and not place a burden on municipalities.

Lori Vitagliano, Government and Public Relations Specialist, South Central Connecticut Regional Water Authority (RWA): RWA owns and operates HazWaste Central (HWC), Connecticut's first permanent household hazardous waste collection center. HWC does not accept smoke detectors. When asked how to properly dispose of such items, HWC refers the homeowner to the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection's website. The agency advises homeowners to contact the manufacturer. However, manufacturers who accept used devices may also charge postage and a recycling fee for the return. These barriers are likely to discourage recycling.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

None Expressed.

Reported by: Steve Smith / Ussawin R. Bumpen Date: 4/8/2019