

OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH
PUBLIC ACT SUMMARY



PA 22-12—sSB 185
General Law Committee
Judiciary Committee

AN ACT CONCERNING COUNTERFEIT AND UNSAFE LIGHTERS

SUMMARY: This act generally prohibits offering or selling a counterfeit or unsafe lighter in Connecticut. This includes providing it as a free sample to someone in the state, regardless of whether the person is offering or selling the lighter on a retail or wholesale basis in person or online.

The act specifies that it does not prohibit the (1) interstate transportation of these lighters through the state or (2) storage of them in any Connecticut distribution center or warehouse that is closed to the public and does not distribute or sell at retail to the public.

The act allows the state fire marshal, a local fire marshal who enforces the State Fire Prevention Code or Fire Safety Code, and any other person aggrieved by a violation of the act to bring a civil action in Superior Court to recover damages from the person who is alleged to have committed the violation.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2022

COVERED LIGHTERS

Under the act, a “lighter” is any electrical or mechanical device that (1) operates using any type of fuel, including butane or another liquid fuel, and (2) is typically used to light a cigarette, cigar, or pipe.

A “counterfeit lighter” is a lighter that infringes on the intellectual property rights of a U.S. citizen or entity protected by federal or state intellectual property law.

An “unsafe lighter” is a (1) disposable or refillable cigarette or pocket lighter that does not comply with American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) standards for lighters (F400-20) and (2) grill or utility lighter that does not comply with ASTM standards for utility lighters (F2201-20).