

Environment Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: HB-6609

AN ACT CONCERNING EXTENDED PRODUCER RESPONSIBILITY FOR

Title: SMOKE DETECTORS.

Vote Date: March 3, 2023

Vote Action: JFS

PH Date: 2/15/2023

File No.:

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

Environment Committee

REASONS FOR BILL:

To facilitate the consumer disposal of smoke detectors and determine the need for extended producer responsibility.

JFS LANGUAGE:

Change date from 2022 to 2024

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

Katie Dykes, Commissioner, Connecticut Department of Energy & Environmental Protection: Commissioner Dykes testified that DEEP recommends the creation of an Extended Producer Responsibility program and it should be modeled after the existing other successful programs like mattresses. We already provide on our web site information of how to dispose smoke detectors and individual ionization do not present health risks due to the extremely low levels of radioactive material and different types of residential smoke detectors require different end-or-life management.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

Betsy Gara, Executive Director, Connecticut Council of Small Towns.

Ms. Gara testified for COST in support of the intent of the bill. Towns are facing solid waste management crisis and we need the state to move forward with a plan for managing solid waste in an environmentally sound and cost-effective manner. The bill should set forth an Extended Produce Responsibility plan to implement an effective program for smoke detectors.

Donna Hamzy Carroccia, Connecticut Conference of Municipalities:

Ms. Carroccia testified in support of the bill and the creation of a stewardship program for the end-of-life disposal of smoke detector. Properly designed the stewardship would provide for an environmentally responsible system that would take the financial and administrative burden off the disposal of these detectors off local governments.

Lori Vitagliano, Government and Public Affairs, Regional Water Authority:

Ms. Vitagliano testified that the Regional Water Authority operates HazWaste Central Connecticut's first permanent household hazardous waste collection center. Headquartered in New Haven and serving 17 municipalities we are open for residents to deliver their household hazardous waste for proper disposal. HazWaste does not accept smoke detectors because safe disposal options are unavailable.

Ann Gadwah, Sierra Club Connecticut:

Ann Gadwah submitted testimony in support but with recommendations that the bill be amended to forgo the study and put in place a full-scale collection program for such products.

Samuel S. Gold, Executive Director, Lower Connecticut River Valley Council of Governments:

Mr. Gold testified that as a long operating household hazardous waste collection program this is one item that we have no solution for smoke detectors. Smoke detectors need to be replaced every ten years and though there are some manufacturers who will take back their smoke detectors not all do. A coordinated program to fund the collection and disposal of smoke detectors is needed.

Jennifer Heaton-Jones, Executive Director, Housatonic Resources Recovery Authority:

Ms. Heaton-Jones testified in support for the Housatonic Resources Recovery Authority. We would like to see some modifications requiring the industry to submit a plan on how they will share responsibility for the disposal of smoke detectors. There is no practical way for residents to dispose of smoke detectors and while manufacturers direct consumers not to place them in the trash there is no collection programs. British Columbia has a program with collection sites for reasonable access to consumers.

Scott Lang, Senior Industry Affairs Manager, Honeywell:

Mr. Lang submitted testimony suggesting replacing the words "residential smoke detector" with "smoke alarm listed to UL 217" and "carbon monoxide detector" to "carbon monoxide alarm listed to UL 2034". This change eliminates any ambiguity in the bill language.

Sarah Middleleer and Deepika Saksena submitted testimony in support of the bill.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

Kim O'Rourke, Middletown Recycling Coordinator:

Ms. O'Rourke submitted testimony opposing the bill because it does not create a stewardship organization, does not shift costs and does not offer free and accessible disposal options. We have several other EPR programs, and that same framework should be developed for smoke detectors. DEEP does not need a report on this issue we need a policy

Reported by: Pamela Bianca

Date: March 1, 2023