

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JUNE 7, 1979

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MAY 21, 1979

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—1979-80 REGULAR SESSION

Assembly Joint Resolution

No. 28

**Introduced by Assemblywoman Egeland
(Coauthor: Senator Campbell)**

April 4, 1979

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION

Assembly Joint Resolution No. 28—Relative to fire hazards of tobacco products.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AJR 28, as amended, Egeland (G.O.). Fire hazards of tobacco products.

This measure would memorialize the Congress of the United States to ban the production of any cigarette which does not self-extinguish in 5 minutes or less and, thereby, establish safety standards for cigarettes produced and sold in the United States in an effort to reduce cigarette-caused fires throughout the United States.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, The California Fire Incident Reporting
- 2 System reports that during the year 1976, approximately
- 3 50 percent of dwelling fires originated in kitchen,
- 4 sleeping, hallway, and living areas; and
- 5 WHEREAS, The State Fire Marshal reports that
- 6 discarded smoking materials are still one of the major

1 causes of dwelling fires and that 65 percent of reported
2 fire deaths occurred in residences; and

3 WHEREAS, The 1976 California Fire Incident
4 Reporting System reports that 26.1 percent of hospital
5 fires in the state are caused from cigarettes, and 30
6 percent of fires in those hospitals are caused by
7 abandoned or discarded material such as cigarettes; and

8 WHEREAS, The United States Fire Administration
9 reports that 7,500 persons annually die from fire and
10 smoke; and

11 WHEREAS, The National Center for Health Statistics
12 reports that the estimated number of fire deaths due to
13 "dropped cigarettes" total 1,800 annually, an average of
14 five deaths per day; and

15 WHEREAS, The Fire Data Center of the United States
16 National Fire Protection Association reports the
17 estimated annual amount of dollar loss in the United
18 States due to fires caused by dropped cigarettes totals 1½
19 to 2 billion dollars; and

20 WHEREAS, Experiments have shown that a freshly lit
21 cigarette will burn continuously for an average of 24
22 minutes when placed on a flat surface; and

23 WHEREAS, With rare exceptions, it has been shown
24 that a discarded cigarette must burn for approximately
25 five minutes or more before a fire will start; and

26 WHEREAS, Tobacco companies produce fast burning
27 cigarettes by various methods, the most common by
28 adding citrate and phosphate salts to cigarette paper as a
29 burn promoter, by using porous cigarette paper which
30 aids in the burning process, and by adding sodium and
31 potassium nitrate in tobacco to promote burning; and

32 WHEREAS, There are over 20 patents that detail
33 methods for making cigarettes self extinguish; and

34 WHEREAS, Tobacco companies can modify cigarettes
35 in various ways to produce a self-extinguishing product;
36 and

37 WHEREAS, It is becoming increasingly apparent that
38 in addition to public awareness campaigns and
39 educational programs conducted by governmental
40 agencies, the cigarette industry should produce firesafe

1 cigarettes; and

2 WHEREAS, Tobacco and tobacco products are
3 specifically excluded from the provisions of the
4 Consumer Product Safety Act (15 U.S.C. 2051) and the
5 Federal Hazardous Substance Act (15 U.S.C. 1261); and

6 WHEREAS, Continued disregard of the contribution
7 that the careless use of tobacco and tobacco products,
8 particularly cigarettes, makes to the increasing number
9 of dwelling and hospital fires is inexcusable; now,
10 therefore, be it

11 *Resolved by the Assembly and Senate of the State of*
12 *California, jointly,* That the Legislature of the State of
13 California respectfully memorializes the Congress of the
14 United States to undertake appropriate legislative action
15 banning the production of any cigarette that does not
16 self-extinguish in five minutes or less and, thereby,
17 establishing safety standards for cigarettes produced and
18 sold in the United States in an effort to bring about a
19 decline in dwelling, hospital, and other cigarette caused
20 fires throughout the United States; and be it further

21 *Resolved,* That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly
22 transmit copies of this resolution to the President and
23 Vice President of the United States, to the Speaker of the
24 House of Representatives, to each Senator and
25 Representative from California in the Congress of the
26 United States, to each member of the Consumer Product
27 Safety Commission, to the Federal Food and Drug
28 Administration, to the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and
29 Firearms Enforcement of the United States Treasury
30 Department, and to the Secretary of Health, Education
31 and Welfare.

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