

HOUSE BILL REPORT

HB 1429

As Reported By House Committee On:

Agriculture & Ecology

Title: An act relating to littering.

Brief Description: Penalizing cigarette discard.

Sponsors: Representatives Sump, O'Brien, Sullivan, Mielke, Mulliken and Sherstad.

Brief History:

Committee Activity:

Agriculture & Ecology: 2/6/97, 2/13/97 [DPS].

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE & ECOLOGY

Majority Report: The substitute bill be substituted therefor and the substitute bill do pass. Signed by 11 members: Representatives Chandler, Chairman; Parlette, Vice Chairman; Schoesler, Vice Chairman; Linville, Ranking Minority Member; Anderson, Assistant Ranking Minority Member; Cooper; Delvin; Koster; Mastin; Regala and Sump.

Staff: Rick Anderson (786-7114).

Background: The penalty for littering is a civil infraction. Littering in amounts of one cubic foot or less is subject to a penalty of \$50. Littering in amounts greater than one cubic foot is subject to penalty of up to \$250 and a cleanup fee of \$25 per cubic foot of litter.

Summary of Substitute Bill: The penalty for litter infractions involving a cigarette, cigar, or other tobacco product is increased to \$500 dollars, if the illegally discarded object is capable of starting a fire.

Substitute Bill Compared to Original Bill: The original bill established a \$500 penalty for any litter infraction involving a tobacco product without regard to its potential to cause a fire.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Not requested.

Effective Date of Substitute Bill: Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.

Testimony For: When people litter with cigarettes, cigars, and other tobacco products they pose a great environmental risk. Fires caused as a result of this type of littering can increase erosion, sedimentation, loss of habitat, air pollution, as well as a loss of jobs. Litter penalties should better reflect the risk that this type of littering poses.

Testimony Against: None.

Testified: Representative Sump, prime sponsor.