2011 SENATE BILL 509


AN ACT to create 100.415 of the statutes; relating to: the display and sale of novelty lighters and providing a penalty.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

This bill prohibits the retail sale of novelty lighters to minors and prohibits the display for retail sale of novelty lighters in an area of a retail establishment that is accessible to the general public. Under the bill, “novelty lighter” means a device containing a combustible fuel intended for use in igniting cigarettes, cigars, or pipes, if any of the following applies: 1) the device is designed to resemble a cartoon character, toy, gun, watch, musical instrument, vehicle, animal, food, or beverage, unless the resemblance is solely the result of printing or decoration with a logo, label, decal, artwork, or a heat shrinkable sleeve; or 2) the device plays musical notes, has flashing lights, or has other features that are appealing to or intended for use by juveniles, except that “novelty lighter” does not include a device manufactured before 1980 or a device intended for use in igniting a fire in a fireplace or wood stove or in a charcoal or gas grill. A person who violates the prohibitions in the bill is subject to a forfeiture up to $100.

For further information see the state fiscal estimate, which will be printed as an appendix to this bill.

The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:
SENATE BILL 509

SECTION 1. 100.415 of the statutes is created to read:

100.415 Novelty lighters; sale and display restricted. (1) (a) In this section, subject to par. (b), “novelty lighter” means a device containing a combustible fuel intended for use in igniting cigarettes, cigars, or pipes, if any of the following applies:

1. The device is designed to resemble a cartoon character, toy, gun, watch, musical instrument, vehicle, animal, food, or beverage, unless the resemblance is solely the result of printing or decoration with a logo, label, decal, artwork, or a heat shrinkable sleeve.

2. The device plays musical notes, has flashing lights, or has other features that appeals to or is intended for use by minors.

(b) “Novelty lighter” does not include a device manufactured before 1980 or a device intended for use in igniting a fire in a fireplace or wood stove or in a charcoal or gas grill.

(2) (a) No person may display a novelty lighter for retail sale in an area of a retail establishment that is accessible to the general public.

(b) No person may sell a novelty lighter to a minor.

(3) Any person who violates this section is subject to a forfeiture not to exceed $100.