2011 SENATE BILL 576

March 15, 2012 – Introduced by Senator WANGGAARD. Referred to Committee on Senate Organization.

AN ACT to renumber 101.745 (4); and to create 101.145 (4m), 101.645 (3m) and 101.745 (4) (b) of the statutes; relating to: battery requirements for smoke detectors.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

Current law requires the owners of most public residential buildings and the owners of one- or two-family dwellings to install smoke detectors in those buildings and dwellings. Current law also requires manufacturers of modular homes to install smoke detectors in those modular homes.

This bill specifies minimum requirements for battery-operated smoke detectors installed in these residential buildings, dwellings, and modular homes. The bill provides that, if the smoke detector is battery-operated and it is not wired to the electrical system of the building, dwelling, or modular home, the smoke detector’s battery may not be removable and it must be capable of powering the smoke detector for at least ten years from the date on which the smoke detector is installed.

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

SECTION 1. 101.145 (4m) of the statutes is created to read:
101.145 (4m) Battery Requirements. (a) If an owner of a residential building installs or replaces a battery-operated smoke detector in the residential building on or after the effective date of this paragraph .... [LRB inserts date], the smoke detector shall be powered by a battery that is not removable and that is capable of powering the smoke detector for at least 10 years from the date of installation.

(b) Paragraph (a) does not apply to the installation or replacement of a smoke detector that is wired to the residential building’s electrical wiring system.

Section 2. 101.645 (3m) of the statutes is created to read:

101.645 (3m) Battery Requirements. (a) If an owner of a dwelling installs or replaces a battery-operated smoke detector in the dwelling on or after the effective date of this paragraph .... [LRB inserts date], the smoke detector shall be powered by a battery that is not removable and that is capable of powering the smoke detector for at least 10 years from the date of installation.

(b) Paragraph (a) does not apply to the installation or replacement of a smoke detector that is wired to the dwelling’s electrical wiring system.

Section 3. 101.745 (4) of the statutes is renumbered 101.745 (4) (a).

Section 4. 101.745 (4) (b) of the statutes is created to read:

101.745 (4) (b) If the manufacturer of a modular home installs a battery-operated smoke detector in the modular home on or after the effective date of this paragraph .... [LRB inserts date], and the smoke detector is not wired to the modular home’s electrical system, the smoke detector shall be powered by a battery that is not removable and that is capable of powering the smoke detector for at least 10 years from the date of installation.