

## Public Safety and Security Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

**Bill No.:** SB-1490

AN ACT CONCERNING THE SALE OF BATTERY-POWERED SMOKE

**Title:** DETECTORS IN THE STATE.

**Vote Date:** 3/18/2025

**Vote Action:** Joint Favorable

**PH Date:** 3/11/2025

**File No.:**

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### SPONSORS OF BILL:

None

### REASONS FOR BILL:

The bill aims to put an end to battery-operated smoke detectors that require the batteries to be changes twice a year during the spring and the fall.

If enacted SB 1490, will require the use of smoke detectors with a ten-year battery life cycle. This will reduce the number of home fires that take place due to malfunctioning smoke detectors. Families often remove batteries and forget to replace them which results in no alerts when there is a fire in the residence. According to the National Fire Protection Association, three out of five homes experience deaths due to non-working smoke alarms. This bill also puts a penalty in place to stop individuals from bypassing the law. For the first offense the individual must pay a hundred dollar fine and for any additional offenses its five hundred dollars or more.

### RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

None

### NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

[Jim Heckman, General Counsel-CT Realtors](#)

Heckman states that CT Realtors supports this bill and agrees with imposing a \$100 fine for the first offense and a \$500 fine if the offense continues. Heckman also mentions that this bill will help families looking for housing. He mentions that this legislation can also assist with more housing units likely being able to pass the inspections required for the voucher

program. He states that an inspector may prevent an entire unit from being able to be rented due to a defective smoke detector.

[Roger Nelson, Bloomfield Fire Marshal](#)

Mr. Nelson expresses support for this legislative proposal because it will reduce the number of deaths and other injuries that takes place in the state due to non-working smoke detectors. He then proceeds to give the following statistics between 2018- 2012, the two main reasons for battery smoke alarms, which did not operate in a structure fire, were missing or disconnected batteries (35%) and dead or discharged batteries (24%). He also states that neighboring states such as Massachusetts and New York have passed this type of legislation.

[Ivanette Bonilla Chief Communications and Government Relations Officer Kidde Global Solutions](#)

Mrs. Bonilla supports this bill and suggest changing the execution deadline in section 1 from October 1, 2025, to October 1, 2026, which will help with the reeducation process consumers will need and for retailers to transition inventory. In addition to that she suggests removing subsection (b) in its entirety to stop large retailers from stockpiling non-compliant alarms. She mentions that the price for replacing the battery power alarms is \$20 whereas the price for a ten-year sealed device is \$30. She then proceeds to explain that in the long run replacing the batteries twice a year for ten years cost more than a ten-year powered smoke alarm.

**NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:**

None

**Reported by: Rena Lewis**

**Date: 3/24/25**