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## **OLR Bill Analysis**

### **sSB 404**

#### ***AN ACT CONCERNING FIREWORKS, FOUNTAINS AND NOVELTIES.***

#### **SUMMARY**

In Connecticut, fireworks are generally illegal unless they are specifically permitted by law; or a municipality, fair association, amusement park, or trade organization or group has a fireworks display permit from the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection commissioner. Current law allows anyone age 16 or older to offer or expose for sale, sell at retail, purchase, use, or possess with intent to sell or use certain sparklers and fountains (collectively “legal fireworks” for the purposes of this bill analysis).

This bill (1) increases and changes the types and allowable composition of fountains and (2) expands legal fireworks to include specific types of novelties allowed under federal law.

As under existing law for most violations of the state fireworks laws, a violation under the bill is a class C misdemeanor punishable by up to three months in prison, a fine of up to \$500, or both.

Lastly, the bill also makes technical and conforming changes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026

#### **FOUNTAINS**

By law, a “fountain” is generally any cardboard or heavy paper cone or cylindrical tube containing pyrotechnic mixture that produces a shower of colored sparks or smoke when ignited. The bill broadens this definition to include any (1) cardboard or heavy paper cone or cylindrical tube containing pyrotechnic mixture that produces crackling or whistling effects and (2) nonexplosive and nonaerial item that produces the primary effect of spinning on the ground, flashing, or

strobing, but does not produce a report (component of an aerial display shell or mine).

To be legal for general consumer use under current law, fountains must be non-explosive, non-aerial, and cannot contain (1) magnesium, except for magnalium or magnesium-aluminum alloy; (2) more than 100 grams of pyrotechnic mixture per item; and (3) more than five grams of chlorate or perchlorate salts per item. If more than one fountain is mounted on a common base, the total pyrotechnic composition cannot exceed 200 grams. For these fountains, the bill (1) eliminates the prohibition on them containing magnesium, (2) removes the limitation on them having more than five grams of chlorate or perchlorate salts per item, and (3) increases the maximum total pyrotechnic composition amount when more than one is mounted on a common base from 200 to 500 grams.

## **NOVELTIES**

The bill allows people ages 16 or older to offer or expose for sale, sell at retail, purchase, use, or possess with intent to sell or use novelties with not more than 100 grams of pyrotechnic mixture per item, which are nonexplosive and nonaerial. “Novelties” are flitter sparklers, party poppers, novelty smoke devices, snappers, and novelty snakes as described in a federally adopted standard (i.e., currently, the American Pyrotechnics Association (APA) Standard 87-1A (2018)).

These devices have basic descriptions as well as general and specific characteristic requirements. The table below shows a brief description for each of the devices legalized under the bill.

**Table: Novelties**

<b>Group</b>	<b>Device</b>	<b>Brief Description</b>
Ground Devices, Individual  (APA Standard 87-1A § 3.2.2 (2018))	Flitter Sparkler	A paper or cardboard tube attached to a stick or wire that produces a shower of sparks, colored flame, or crackling effect

<b>Group</b>	<b>Device</b>	<b>Brief Description</b>
Novelties  (APA Standard 87-1A § 3.2.1 (2018))	Party Popper	A device that is activated by friction where pulling the string or trigger activates the device producing a noise effect and releasing paper streamers or confetti
	Novelty Snake	A device in the form of a pressed pellet of chemical composition that upon burning produces a snake-like ash that expands in length as the pellet burns
	Snapper	A paper or plastic wrapped device that contains silver fulminate coated on small bits of sand or gravel and is activated when dropped, producing a noise effect
	Novelty Smoke Device	A device that produces only smoke

Applicable general requirements include that these devices must not leak pyrotechnic composition during transportation and handling, and one example of a specific characteristic requirement is that the maximum composition weight allowed for flitter sparklers is five grams in a finished device (see APA Standard 87-1A §§ 2.4 and 3.2.2.7 (2018)).

### **COMMITTEE ACTION**

Public Safety and Security Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 18 Nay 11 (03/17/2026)