



PATRICK TESTIN

STATE SENATOR

DATE: September 24, 2019

RE: **Testimony on 2019 Senate Bill 195**

TO: The Senate Committee on Government Operations, Technology and Consumer Protection

FROM: Senator Patrick Testin

Thank you members of the Senate Committee on Government Operations, Technology and Consumer Protection for accepting my testimony on Senate Bill 195.

We all have heard the phrase “playing with fire.” It denotes a risky action or plan, and it’s not a positive expression. And yet, there are a number of novelty lighters out there, with their colorful or playful appearance that seem to encourage the users to play with fire.

The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) found that in 2014, U.S. fire departments estimated 5,100 home structure fires were caused by someone, usually a child, playing with fire. Those fires caused \$115 million in direct property damage, 430 civilian injuries and 60 civilian deaths. Additionally, NFPA found that lighters were the heat source in more than half (52%) of home structure fires.

Due to their toy-like appearance, children have mistaken novelty lighters for toys which has tragically led to property damage, injuries and even fatalities. This common sense legislation doesn’t ban the sale of novelty lighters, it instead attempts to limit minors’ access to them. Senate Bill 195 simply prohibits the sale of novelty lighters to minors and prohibits them from being displayed in areas of retail establishments that can be accessed by the general public.

I hope that you will join me and the coalition of Firefighters, Fire Chiefs, local governments and health organizations in supporting Senate Bill 195. It’s time we stop playing with fire.



SCOTT KRUG

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TO: Members, Assembly Committee on Consumer Protection
FROM: Rep. Scott Krug
RE: 2019 SENATE BILL 195
DATE: September 24, 2019

I write today to thank the committee and Sen. Strobel for holding a hearing on SB 195, a proposal pertaining to the sale of novelty lighters in Wisconsin. I also thank Sen. Patrick Testin for his support as lead Senator on this proposal, which has included Sen. Testin introducing SB 195 in the State Senate. (I authored SB 195's companion bill, AB 202.)

SB 195 / AB 202 would ban the 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; or 2) the device plays musical notes, has flashing lights, or has other features that are appealing to or intended for use by juveniles. However, the bill provides that "novelty lighter" does not include any of the following: 1) a device manufactured before 1980; 2) a device intended for use in igniting a fire in a fireplace or wood stove or in a charcoal or gas grill; or 3) a standard disposable or refillable lighter that is printed or decorated with logos, labels, decals, artwork, or heat-shrinkable sleeves. A person who violates the prohibitions in the bill is subject to a forfeiture of up to \$100.

Today you will hear from Pittsville Fire Chief Jerry Minor. Chief Minor has been at the forefront of raising awareness of the public safety concern that goes along with children and lighters. While SB 195 and AB 202 are not "cure-alls" they will make significant headway in making sure that "lighters" that have a toy like appearance do not fall into the hands of children.

MORE

The work we have done on this bill for the last few sessions has allowed us to meet an amazing group of people and the stories of those working behind the scenes on this issue are *truly* inspiring. We have met and heard from burn victims, firefighting professionals who describe some of the horrific scenes they have responded to, and even an amazing group of young adults from Pittsville Wisconsin who have remained dedicated to this cause session after session (from grade school to high school).

We have worked with the National Lighter Association in writing this bill, which as we worked through the process with them we became aware that Wisconsin is certainly not alone in this effort. 17 other states have passed legislation in regards to novelty lighters. (Several other states have legislation pending or studies ongoing.) Many of those bills/laws ban novelty lighter sales, distribution and manufacturing entirely.

I should add that when last we tried this bill, in the 2015 session, only 15 states had passed similar laws. Two more states have join in since. Wisconsin should as well.

Through the committee hearing process over previous sessions when we did this bill, we have yet to hear from anyone opposed to the bill, offering a reason for opposition. Many traditional retailers have stopped selling these devices, some have already moved the display of those items to areas with better monitoring some have not.

Our goal is to simply educate those who sell these devices to the potential dangers that exist and as such there is a small penalty for violation of the statute.

Working together to raise awareness, provide for increased public safety, while maintaining a free market are all goals that we look to achieve with this legislation.

Thank you again for holding a hearing on SB195/AB202. Please contact my office with any questions.

Scott Krug
State Representative 72nd Assembly District

Testimony of Chief Minor – Pittsville Fire on SB 195

Mr. Chairman and members of the Senate Committee.

Good Morning and thank-you for allowing us to testify today. My name is Jerry Minor – I am the current Chief of the Pittsville Fire Department – Pittsville is located in the exact center of Wisconsin – Wood County – just south of Marshfield and just west of Wisconsin Rapids. My jurisdiction contains the 24th and 23rd. Senate District the 70th Assembly District and portions of the 69th. My Fire Department is not unlike any of the other 835 fire departments in this State. We all have many jobs to do along with the suppression of fire – one of our largest duties we perform which is mandated by statute and code is that of fire prevention. While fire prevention is aimed at all ages, quite frankly we spend the greatest amount of time teaching children. This is how this story begins...

In October of 2008 my granddaughter Kaitylin who was in 2nd grade at the time brought home a copy of this Weekly Reader – The children’s publication contained many articles on fire safety as it was fire prevention month – She made special note to an article entitled – “Lighters are not Toys” and very boldly announced – “Grandpa – You need to make a Law”.

After much discussion and research on the topic I asked Ms. Londa Kuehn, Kaityllin’s 2nd grade class if they would like a project and help me and the fire department get a bill introduced in Wisconsin to ban the sale of Novelty lighters to

anyone under the age of 18. A recent fire in May of that year in my city claimed the life of Mason, an Elementary school student they all knew. The cause of the fire was related to a lighter. During that school year the class wrote letters to all of our areas legislators and to then Governor Doyle.

We have been working on this project ever since.

Currently in the United States 17 States have passed Novelty Lighter legislation since March of 2008.

How big is the problem?

Data from both the NFPA (National Fire Protection Association) and the US Fire Administration in the age bracket of 1- 18 consistently has shown children playing with fire continues to be a cause of fires 50% + of the time. Lighters were and continue to be the primary means as the method to start fires.

What about Wisconsin?

Data from the National Fire Incident Reporting System in Wisconsin from 2013 to July of 2019. This data clearly shows that lighters are consistently the number one cause of fires in the age bracket of 1- 18 years of age. These numbers will not change if we do not have legislation in place to limit the sale of novelty lighters to minors. In all 11 years we have been working on this legislation – the lighter remains the number 1 cause.

Ladies and gentlemen we have a problem! My colleagues and I, in the room today alone cannot make this go away. Fire departments for decades have taught children fire “safety”

what to do once a fire has started, calling 911, knowing your address, Stop Drop and Roll and more importantly PREVENTION-Not to play with matches or candles and THAT LIGHTERS ARE NOT TOYS!! But...

Displayed in front of you are just a few of the many types of NOVELTY style lighters available at many local retail outlets in most of Wisconsin. They are designed to look like anything but a lighter and very few if any have any type of safety device on them allowing anyone to use them. Child proof is not child safe – we need to guide parents to this issue as we have with bicycle helmets, seatbelts and a variety of other safety items that are now mandated by law. Parents can still parent if they can see the hazards that are present.

When you compare a novelty lighter to a toy as we have here in this container –you and I may be able to pick out which is which – A child may not!

The fire service in Wisconsin, educators in Wisconsin, parents and grandparents like I know some of you are, can only do so much – We need your help to bring this article to the front of the legislature and make it difficult in Wisconsin for anyone to buy a novelty lighter under the age of 18. Rather than wait for a tragedy to strike in this State from a Novelty lighter and be re-active to the problem – We are asking you to be PROACTIVE and enact legislation to prevent a tragedy from occurring. In my opinion this is not a Democrat nor Republican issue – this is a life safety need. One lighter can destroy more

than one life. The lives of one family or a block of families, the lives of firefighters that are required to respond to these incidents – we are all threatened.

The students from that Second grade class that asked for this legislation just graduated from High School last spring – they are still awaiting for this legislation to be enacted.

I also want to thank the legislators that have authored and or co-authored this bill for these many years. Without your continued support we would not be here today.

On behalf of fire departments in this State, my colleagues here today, those 2nd graders who are now freshmen in college.

I would like to leave you with a quote from a well-known risk manager the fire service has been following for years – Mr. Gordon Graham – “If it’s predictable it’s preventable”.

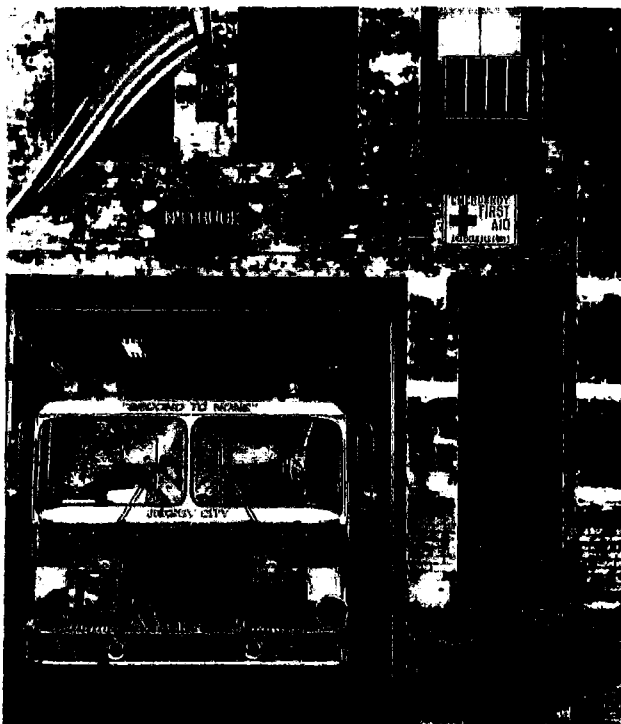
Thank-you for allowing us to testify here today.

Oct 2008

Firefighter

Firefighters wear special clothing.

To stay safe, firefighters wear **turnout gear**. It includes a helmet, a mask, a jacket, pants, boots, and gloves. The gear can weigh up to 60 pounds. That is about the weight of a second grader!



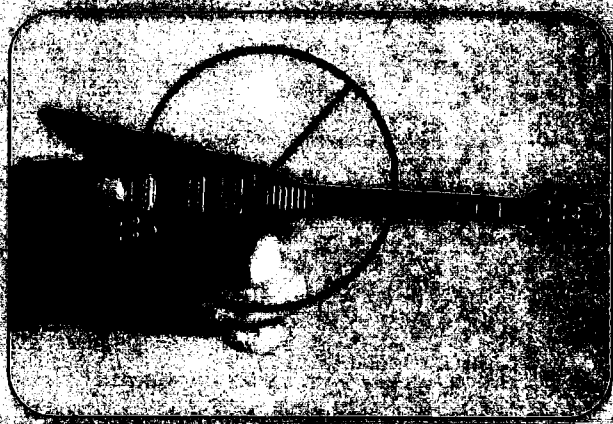
Firefighters practice: Bill Storrone/CORBIS; fire station: Joseph Schim/Vision of America/CORBIS; firefighter: Photodisc/Getty Images; firefighter clothing: Masterfile; frog and guitar: iStockphoto.com; firefighter: Sarah Cabusko/Weezy Reader

Lighters Are Not Toys



Fire officials are warning young children to stop playing with lighters. They think that kids are playing with them and that they have started fires when playing with the lighters.

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Did you want to be a firefighter? Why or why not?

**Chronological List of States with Laws Banning
the Sale and/or Distribution of
Novelty and Toylike Lighters**

Updated July 2015

Maine

Governor John E. Baldacci signed Legislative Document 2081, which prohibits the retail sale and distribution of novelty lighters, into law on March 24, 2008. Maine is the first state to enact legislation banning novelty lighters.

Tennessee

Governor Phil Bredesen signed House Bill 3107, which limits the sale and distribution of novelty lighters, into law on April 23, 2008.

Oregon

Governor Ted Kulongoski signed House Bill 2365, a bill banning the manufacture, sale and distribution of toylike (novelty) lighters, into law on March 4, 2009.

Arkansas

Governor Mike Beebe signed Senate Bill 154, which bans the sale and distribution of novelty lighters, into law on March 10, 2009.

Virginia

Governor Tim Kaine signed House Bill 2578, which prohibits the sale of novelty lighters to juveniles, into law on March 30, 2009.

Washington

Governor Christine Gregoire signed Senate Bill 5011, which prohibits the sale or distribution of certain novelty lighters, into law on April 29, 2009.

Nevada

Assembly Bill 266, which prohibits the sale or distribution as a promotion of novelty lighters and was sponsored by John Ocegüera, became law on May 29, 2009. This means that the bill was passed by the Nevada Legislature without Governor Jim Gibbons approving or vetoing it within the allowed period.

Louisiana

Governor Bobby Jindal signed House Bill 199, which prohibits the sale and distribution of certain novelty lighters, into law on June 19, 2009.

North Carolina

Governor Beverly Perdue signed Senate Bill 652, which prohibits the retail sale and distribution of novelty lighters, into law on June 30, 2009.

New Jersey

Governor Jon Corzine signed Assembly Bill 3207, which prohibits the sale of novelty lighters, into law on Nov. 20, 2009.

Mississippi

Governor Haley Barbour signed House Bill 232, which bans the sale and distribution of novelty lighters, into law on March 15, 2010.

Utah

Governor Gary R. Herbert signed House Bill 201, which prohibits the sale, manufacture, distribution or possession of novelty lighters, into law on March 30, 2010.

Illinois

Governor Pat Quinn signed House Bill 5139, which bans the sale and distribution of novelty and toy lighters, into law on July 28, 2010.

Massachusetts

Governor Deval Quinn signed House Bill 4369, which bans the manufacture, sale, giving away, storing or transport of novelty lighters, into law on Aug. 9, 2010.

Hawaii

Senate Bill 173, which calls for a ban on the sale of novelty lighters, became law without the signature of Governor Neil Abercrombie on July 12, 2011.

New York

Governor Andrew Cuomo signed Assembly Bill 1011, which bans the manufacture, import, sale and distribution of novelty lighters, on Sept. 27, 2013.

Nebraska

Governor Dave Heineman signed Legislative Bill 403, which prohibits the sale of novelty lighters without child-proof safety features on Feb. 13, 2014.

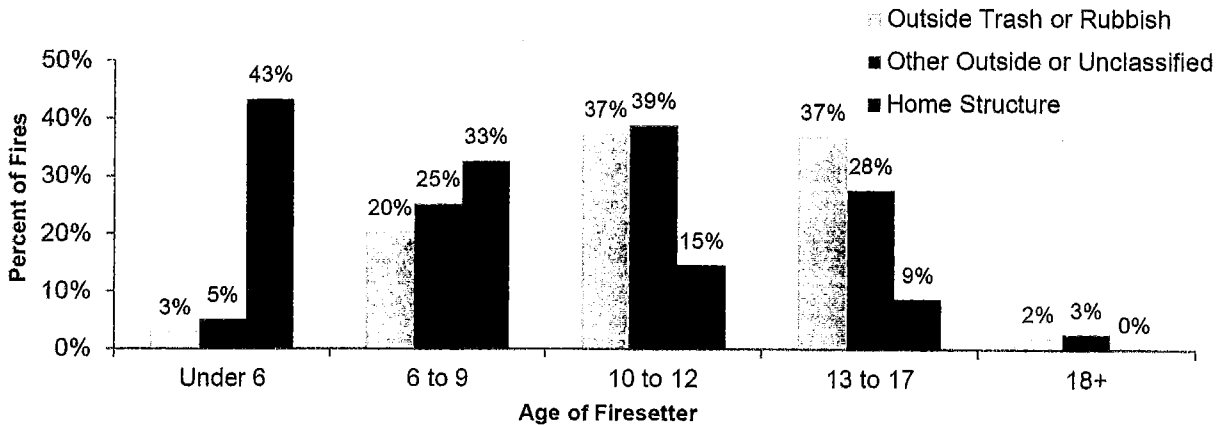


Playing With Fire Fact Sheet

Fires started by play accounted for an average of 49,300 fires with associated losses of 80 civilian deaths, 860 civilian injuries and \$235 million in direct property damage per year between 2007 and 2011. These included:

- 21,100 outside or unclassified fires
- 16,300 outside trash or rubbish fires
- 11,100 structure fires
- 800 vehicle fires

Fires Caused by Children Playing
By Age (when Age Cited as a Human Factor Involved in Ignition) and Incident Type: 2007-2011



Younger children were more likely to set fires in homes, while older children and teenagers are more likely to set fires outside

- Males were more likely to engage in fire-play than females, as 83% of home structure fires and 93% of outside or unclassified fires were set by boys when age was coded as a factor
- Lighters were the heat source in just over half (52%) of fires in homes involving play
- 39% of home fires involving play began in a bedroom

PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT COMBINED WITH POSITIVE MESSAGING WORKS FOR CHILDREN:

NFPA recently contracted with the Johns Hopkins Center for Injury Research and Policy to study the best way to communicate safety messages to children 4-9 years old. The study found that videos featuring positively framed messages are more effective than negatively framed messages and that when parents discuss media content with their children, the children learn more. You can learn more at <http://www.nfpa.org/messaging>

Source: *Playing with Fire*, Richard Campbell, March 2014



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Playing with fire

Report: NFPA's "[Playing With Fire](#)" (PDF, 1 MB)

Author: Richard Campbell

Issued: March 2014

The subject of this report is fires caused by playing with fire. Most of these fires are started by children involved with fireplay. This report addresses the size of the problem (overall and by property class) and examines how, when, and where these fires occurred, the primary heat sources involved in these fires, the items ignited, age characteristics of involved persons, and loss data (deaths, injuries, and property damage).

Executive Summary

Between 2007 and 2011, an average of 49,300 fires involving playing with fire were reported to U.S. municipal fire departments per year. These fires caused annual averages of 80 civilian deaths, 860 civilian injuries, and \$235 million in property damage. Structure fires accounted for 23% of fires, but 98% of civilian deaths, 93% of civilian injuries, and 91% of property damage. Outside or unclassified fires accounted for three-quarters (76%) of the fires, and vehicle fires for 2%.

Two-thirds (67%) of structure fires involving play occurred in residential properties, with 64% in homes. Eleven percent began in outside or special properties (these include tunnels, bridges, vacant lots, etc.), and 7% began in educational properties.

Most deaths, injuries, and damage from child playing fires occur in home structure fires. An average of 7,100 home structure fires per year caused by play were reported between 2007 and 2011, causing annual averages of 77 civilian deaths. We have updated our privacy policy, which includes information about how we collect, use and share information about you. By using this site, you consent to this policy and use of cookies.

Half of home playing structure fires (52%) had a lighter as their heat source, and matches were the heat source in 18% of fires. Fires started by lighters or matches caused 82% of civilian deaths.

More information

["Playing With Fire" report](#) (PDF)

Errata issued April 2016.

[Download the errata.](#)

Fact sheet

["Children Playing with Fire" fact sheet](#) (PDF)

Safety tips

[What you can do to help keep children away from fire.](#)

Latest estimates on major fire causes

[NFPA's latest estimates of home fires started by playing - 2014.](#) (PDF)

Contact us

If you have any questions, e-mail

Thirty-nine percent of these fires began in the bedroom, 8% in the kitchen and 6% in a living room, family room or den. A mattress or bedding was the item first ignited in 23% of these fires, while 10% began with magazines, newspapers, or writing paper and 9% began with rubbish, trash, or waste.

**Nancy Schwartz or
call +1 617 984-
7450.**

The majority of structure fires in homes caused by play were started by males (83%). Forty-three percent of the fires were started by a child under age 6. Older children were more likely to start outside fires, with two of five (38%) of all outside or unclassified fires started by a child between the ages of 10 and 12.

Outside or unclassified playing fires (excluding trash or rubbish fires) peak during the afternoon hours, between 3 p.m. and 6 p.m. Nearly one-quarter of these fires (24%) were started during the month of July, likely influenced by fires during the July 4th holiday. Fireworks were the heat source in 30% of all non-trash outside or unclassified fires caused by fireplay, with lighters the heat source in 29% of the fires and matches the heat source in 20%.

Males were even more likely to be responsible for these fires than in home playing structure fires, as 94% of outside or unclassified (trash or non-trash combined) fires involving play were started by males (when age was coded as a human factor contributing to ignition).

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Report Parameters:

Report Period: From 01/01/2013 to 07/31/2019

Selected Coded Field: Fire: Heat Source

State: WI Version: All Status: All Released: All

Report Filters: AND(Fire: Fire Contributing Factors Value in { 19 })
AND(Fire: Estimated Age of Person Range from: 1 to: 18)

NOTE: Report Filter Groups are applied to the report SQL as "AND" conditions (i.e. Group 1 AND Group2 and Group 3 etc...)

Report FDIDs*: 29020, 20040, 28060, 33040, 14090, 37090, 52040, 59200, 01050, 22110, 20030, 16200, 29030, 22120, 33050, 28050, 37080, 52030, 67170, 10090, 59210, 01040, 49140, 33020, 28040, 20060, 52020, 37070, 67140, 58100, 10080, 36210, 49130, 71080, 59220, 28030, 33030, 63010, 20050, 67150, 52010, 14080, 29010, 40110, 37060, 10070, 22100, 59230, 49120, 71090, 01060, 28020, 58120, 14230, 13100, 42110, 63020, 33080, 41020, 09100, 49110, 47250, 39080, 10060, 14240, 28010, 13110, 42120, 33090, 63030, 49100, 39090, 36200, 15100, 40170, 09110, 10050, 67180, 58140, 13120, 69100, 33060, 20020, 53100, 63040, 10040, 40160, 70020, 42100, 41010, 33070, 67190, 63050, 20010, 10030, 70010, 42150, 44290, 39040, 21070, 55020, 70040, 41060, 04210, 63060, 04010, 43010, 13140, 32010, 36030, 58160, 42160, 48090, 70030, 55030, 32020, 41070, 63070, 59010, 47080, 13150, 58150, 36040, 14200, 48080, 70060, 32030, 11130, 21050, 56170, 44270, 25080, 63080, 41040, 59020, 47070, 29080, 66090, 14210, 42130, 44070, 13160, 36010, 70050, 55010, 32040, 11120, 48070, 44280, 39070, 21040, 42140, 04200, 25090, 41050, 63090, 47060, 29090, 59030, 58170, 14220, 38190, 36020, 44080, 13170, 43050, 59240, 01010, 56150, 42190, 38180, 47050, 70080, 44050, 62110, 66070, 36070, 29060, 59040, 13180, 39010, 43040, 56160, 70070, 68100, 59050, 44060, 62120, 38170, 47040, 66080, 36080, 28090, 28092, 13190, 29070, 01030, 41080, 39020, 43030, 21090, 56130, 42170, 44030, 66050, 03110, 36050, 59060, 38160, 47030, 28080, 29040, 01020, 41090, 39030, 21080, 66060, 44040, 03100, 62100, 70090, 47020, 59070, 29050, 36060, 28070, 38130, 65050, 44140, 31030, 59090, 66160, 05060, 51080, 68020, 25030, 08020, 48010, 38140, 65040, 67010, 51090, 44130, 59080, 05070, 68010, 08010, 31020, 25020, 48020, 38110, 05040, 44120, 31010, 25010, 61120, 36090, 12100, 38120, 05050, 37260, 04070, 88888, 42090, 61130, 64150, 66120, 05020, 65010, 61100, 57070, 08060, 48050, 68060, 18050, 31060, 04050, 37240, 64160, 05030, 38100, 61110, 25060, 57060, 08050, 48060, 18060, 66110, 64170, 37230, 31050, 04040, 65030, 48030, 35050, 08040, 68040, 18030, 25050, 66100, 57090, 37220, 22090, 31040, 65020, 04030, 05010, 48040, 35040, 18040, 25040, 08030, 68030, 16090, 57080, 16080, 67210, 64110, 10130, 45130, 18010, 20190, 35030, 57030, 71030, 22080, 42200, 37210, 10140, 51010, 64120, 67200, 16070, 18020, 30100, 68090, 57020, 35020, 37010, 22070, 14010, 71020, 37200, 16060, 64130, 51020, 57050, 35010, 68080, 71010, 22060, 10110, 16050, 51030, 57040, 68070, 22050, 64140, 09090, 71070, 51040, 33900, 09070, 09080, 14060, 67250, 37040, 22040, 16030, 09060, 40100, 10100, 51050, 67240, 71060, 22030, 30110, 57010, 16020, 09050, 26100, 43190, 51060, 67230, 05080, 14040, 22020, 37020, 71050, 33100, 30120, 16010, 09040, 64100, 43180, 51070, 67220, 05090, 14030, 22010,

*Data from deactivated fire depts within the list was not included in the report.

Selected Coded Field: Fire: Heat Source

Report Period: From 01/01/2013 to 07/31/2019

CODE	Description	FREQ	FREQ %	EXPS	GIV DTHS	GIV DTHS %	GIV INJS	GIV INJS %	FF DTHS	FF DTHS %	FF INJS	FF INJS %	PROP LOSS	PROP LOSS %	CONT LOSS	CONT LOSS %	TOTAL LOSS	TOT LOSS %
00	Heat source: other	4	2.41 %	0	0	0.00 %	0	0.00 %	0	0.00 %	0	0.00 %	5,000	0.31 %	0	0.00 %	5,000	0.22 %
10	Heat from powered equipment, other	1	0.60 %	0	0	0.00 %	0	0.00 %	0	0.00 %	0	0.00 %	0	0.00 %	35	0.01 %	35	0.00 %
12	Radiated, conducted heat from operating equipment	4	2.41 %	0	0	0.00 %	2	18.18 %	0	0.00 %	0	0.00 %	41,000	2.53 %	7,300	1.05 %	48,300	2.09 %
40	Hot or smoldering object, other	1	0.60 %	0	0	0.00 %	0	0.00 %	0	0.00 %	0	0.00 %	10,312	0.64 %	3,865	0.56 %	14,177	0.61 %
42	Molten, hot material	1	0.60 %	0	0	0.00 %	0	0.00 %	0	0.00 %	0	0.00 %	1,500	0.09 %	0	0.00 %	1,500	0.06 %
43	Hot ember or ash	1	0.60 %	0	0	0.00 %	0	0.00 %	0	0.00 %	0	0.00 %	5,000	0.31 %	3,000	0.43 %	8,000	0.35 %
54	Fireworks	12	7.23 %	0	0	0.00 %	0	0.00 %	0	0.00 %	0	0.00 %	4,700	0.29 %	50	0.01 %	4,750	0.21 %
60	Heat from other open flame or smoking materials	6	3.61 %	0	0	0.00 %	0	0.00 %	0	0.00 %	1	25.00 %	614,000	37.86 %	225,200	32.42 %	839,200	36.23 %
61	Cigarette	1	0.60 %	0	0	0.00 %	0	0.00 %	0	0.00 %	0	0.00 %	100	0.01 %	0	0.00 %	100	0.00 %
63	Heat from undetermined smoking material	2	1.20 %	0	0	0.00 %	0	0.00 %	0	0.00 %	0	0.00 %	2,539	0.16 %	500	0.07 %	3,039	0.13 %
64	Match	21	12.65 %	0	1	100.00 %	0	0.00 %	0	0.00 %	1	25.00 %	230,492	14.21 %	123,520	17.78 %	354,012	15.28 %

Tally

Selected Coded Field: Fire: Heat Source

Report Period: From 01/01/2013 to 07/31/2019

CODE	Description	FREQ	FREQ %	EXPs	CIV DTHS	CIV DTHS %	CIV INJS	CIV INJS %	FF DTHS	FF DTHS %	FF INJS	FF INJS %	PROP LOSS	PROP LOSS %	CONT LOSS	CONT LOSS %	TOTAL LOSS	TOT LOSS %	
65	Cigarette lighter	90	54.22 %	0	0	0.00 %	7	63.64 %	0	0.00 %	2	50.00 %	631,407	38.94 %	307,537	44.28 %	938,944	40.54 %	
69	Flame/torch used for lighting	7	4.22 %	0	0	0.00 %	0	0.00 %	0	0.00 %	0	0.00 %	30,750	1.90 %	5,200	0.75 %	35,950	1.55 %	
81	Heat from direct flame, convection currents	3	1.81 %	0	0	0.00 %	2	18.18 %	0	0.00 %	0	0.00 %	20,000	1.23 %	10,000	1.44 %	30,000	1.30 %	
83	Flying brand, ember, spark	1	0.60 %	0	0	0.00 %	0	0.00 %	0	0.00 %	0	0.00 %	0	0.00 %	0	0.00 %	0	0.00 %	
UU	Undetermined	11	6.63 %	0	0	0.00 %	0	0.00 %	0	0.00 %	0	0.00 %	24,812	1.53 %	8,353	1.20 %	33,165	1.43 %	
Totals		166	100 %	0	1	100 %	11	100 %	0	0 %	4	100 %	1,621,612	100 %	694,560	100 %	2,316,172	100 %	
Mutual Aid/ Given Incidents		1																	



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DATE: September 24, 2019

TO: Senate Committee on Government Operations, Technology and Consumer Protection

FROM: WI State Fire Chiefs Association

RE: Please Support Senate Bill 195

The Wisconsin State Fire Chiefs Association asks that you support Senate Bill 195 banning the sale of novelty lighters to minors and the display of the novelty lighters in retail establishments.

Toy like or novelty lighters have been responsible for injuries, deaths, and accidents across the Nation. Children are attracted to novelty lighters because they look like toys. Many of these lighters look like animals, miniature cars, mobile phones, cameras, fishing lures, stacks of coins, markers, and doll accessories. One lighter is nearly identical to the popular rubber ducky bath toy and it even quacks! There are also toy like novelty lighters that look like tools such as tape measures, drills, hammers, and paint brushes. Ironically, there are even lighters that mimic a Dalmatian donning a fire helmet, a red fire truck, or fire extinguishers.

A Fire Marshal in Wisconsin was making a purchase at a local home improvement store when his 12-year-old daughter picked up what she believed was a tape measure. When she clicked the button on the tape measure, a flame came out. Fortunately, the child was not hurt, and the store owner voluntarily stopped selling the lighters.

The National Fire Incident Reporting System (NIFRS) data indicates that lighters play a role nearly equal to matches in residential child-play fires, and some studies show that lighters tend to be the preferred ignition source. When children set fires in the home, the most common area of fire origin is the bedroom, and the material ignited is often bedding, mattresses, or clothing.

Intentionally set fires are the major cause of dollar losses from fires and a leading cause of fire deaths in the United States. In 2005, the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) estimated 9,423 lighter child-playing structure fires were reported in the U.S., with associated losses of 153 civilian deaths, 855 civilian injuries, and \$231 million in direct damage. Most child-playing home fires are started with lighters or matches. The median age of children who start reported fires by playing is 5 years old, compared to a median age of 4 years old for fatal victims, and a median age in the late teens for nonfatal injuries.

Please help make Wisconsin a fire safe state by supporting Senate Bill 195 prohibiting the sale of novelty lighters to minors.

If you have any questions please contact:

Tim Bantes, President
WI State Fire Chiefs Association
timothy.bantes@grandchute.net
920-380-2999



I came to Burn Camp 18 years ago as a new Mukwonago volunteer fire fighter and the experience changed my life. Seeing people from all walks of life come together to make these kids so happy is inspiring to say the least.

After all these years, I still can't imagine the pain and hardships these kids have to go through. Burns are the most painful thing a person can experience. A child with a skin graft has to go through multiple surgeries because as they grow, their skin grafts do not.

We have had kids who have had 100 surgeries before their 18th birthday. Seeing kids with burns covering 60,70,80% of their body is not easy. Especially now, knowing what treatments are involved, the cost of healthcare, and knowing the cause of a vast majority of these burns were preventable.

1,500 kids are seen in Wisconsin emergency rooms each year with burn injuries. Of those, more than 100 are admitted for more than 3 days with severe burns. This means there are more than 1,400 kids in Wisconsin; in the 7-17 age range, that are eligible to attend our Burn Camp.

Looking back at the causes of burns listed on the camper applications of the 1,000+ kids that have attended Burn Camp over the last 25 years. We have at least 10-15 kids each year with burns caused by playing with fire and at least 3-5 kids each year with burns caused by playing with lighters specifically.

Please support this legislation and help us create a fire-safe and burn-free Wisconsin.

Thank you,

Michael J. Wos, Executive Director



Professional Fire Fighters Wisconsin Charitable Foundation

September 24th, 2019

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL 195

Relating to the display and sale of novelty lighters and providing a penalty

Good Morning, my name is Mike Vos. I am a Fire Fighter / Paramedic in the City of Oshkosh. However, I am here today as the Executive Director of the Professional Fire Fighters of Wisconsin Charitable Foundation.

We are an independent self-supporting public charity that is working to create a fire-safe and burn-free Wisconsin through education, risk mitigation, and support for burn survivors, fire fighters, and communities throughout Wisconsin.

The organization we now operate started 32 years ago in the City of Milwaukee. Where within a 15-day period, 3 fires took the lives of 20 people, including 17 kids.

These tragic events lead to the creation of the Wisconsin Alliance for Fire Safety. An organization dedicated to supporting burn survivors and preventing fires and burns through education. 5 years ago, the PFFWCF was formed and absorbed the WAFS with the promise to maintain the cause and improve the programming.

28 years ago, the WI fire service, fire sprinkler industry, and many others came together and raised money to send young Wisconsin Burn Survivors to Burn Camp in Illinois. 25 years ago, the number of burn injured youth in WI exceeded what Illinois could handle and our first annual Summer Camp for Burn Injured Youth was held just outside of East Troy, WI in 1995.

Burn Camp is a free week-long summer camp, where 50-100 kids with life changing burn injuries come to have fun and heal emotionally – without having to worry about the world around them.



**SAFE
KIDS**
WISCONSIN

TO: Senate Committee on Public Benefits, Licensing, and State-Federal Relations
FROM: Libbe Slavin, Safe Kids WI Coordinator, Children's Hospital of Wisconsin
DATE: Tuesday, September 24, 2019
RE: Support for SB 195 – relating to the display and sale of novelty lighters and providing a penalty

Good morning, Chairman Stroebel and members of the committee. My name is Libbe Slavin and I am the State Coordinator for Safe Kids Wisconsin. I thank you for the opportunity today to submit testimony regarding novelty lighters and to share some of the serious safety risks they pose to children. One of the risks that we can remove from the hands and fingers of children are novelty lighters – fire starters fashioned as cartoon characters, guns, musical instruments, dragons and other objects attractive to a child. They pose a serious safety risk to children and we strongly encourage you to take action to prohibit children's access to these dangerous items. I write today to express our support for AB 202 to prohibit the sale of novelty lighters to children.

Safe Kids Wisconsin is a member of Safe Kids Worldwide, a network of over 400 local coalitions in the U.S., including 11 in Wisconsin. We work throughout the world bringing together health and safety experts, educators, corporations, foundations, governments and volunteers to educate and protect families. Our mission is to prevent accidental childhood injury, the leading killer of children ages 1 to 19. Safe Kids Wisconsin was founded in 1991 and is led by Children's Hospital of Wisconsin.

According to the Centers for Disease Control, fires and burns are a leading cause of unintentional death for kids ages 0-14. We need to reduce the ways that put our children at risk for fires and burns. The risks posed by children playing with matches and lighters are well-known and the consequences can be severe. The National Fire Protection Association has estimated that between 2007 and 2011, half of home structure fires had a lighter as their heat source and fires started by lighters or matches caused 82 percent of civilian deaths.

Despite these troubling statistics, novelty lighters are readily available on Wisconsin's store shelves. As stated above, they are magnets for a child's natural discovery instinct. Some novelty lighters make sounds, for example, to mimic the ring of a cell phone, and feature flashing lights. Because of their appearance and features, novelty lighters are especially attractive to children. We tell our children to stay away from matches and lighters, and yet we make them look like toys. We are, in essence, inviting disaster.

We have already seen the ramifications of having children's access to novelty lighters. In May 2015, firefighters were called to an apartment building in La Crosse due to a fire started by an eight-year-old boy playing with a lighter. Other incidents involving children and novelty lighters have resulted in property damage and severe burns. Children have accidentally set their clothing on fire, burned themselves, and put other members of their households at risk by lighting the bedding of sleeping adults and children on fire.



Children are not the only ones fooled by the toy-like appearance of novelty lighters. Several reports have involved children bringing novelty lighters into schools, presumably unnoticed by teachers and principals, because the lighters resemble ordinary toys. Parents have described buying the lighters expressly for the purpose of giving them to their children, thinking they are toys.

Further, children and families are not the only ones at risk; we need to minimize this risk that also puts our firefighters in danger. Again, I strongly encourage you to support this bill and limit children's access to these needless and dangerous devices to prevent future tragedy.

Chairman Stroebel and committee members, I thank you again for the opportunity to share testimony behalf Safe Kids WI in support of SB 195. Please feel free to contact me with any follow up questions at LSlavin@chw.org.

September 24,2019

RE: Support for Senate bill 233

The case of theft by Larry Lokken and Kay Onarheim from Eau Claire county is one of the largest cases of public misconduct in office our area has ever seen. They orchestrated a scheme over several years to defraud and steal hundreds of thousands of dollars over the years totaling at least \$1.4 million.

When news of the theft was reported, the public was outraged, and rightly so. People were very angry that this theft of taxpayer money had occurred, and the public trust in all elected officials and county employees was deeply shaken.

What is even more offensive, is that Larry Lokken has approximately \$10,000/ income per month coming in from investments and WRS, but his WRS income cannot be accessed for the purpose of repayment to Eau Claire county for his theft.

We in Eau Claire county strongly support this bill and thank you for taking up this bill, and think this law will be a real deterrent for future crimes against counties/municipalities and help to restore the public's trust. No one should be able to steal from their employer and then be "rewarded" with employer retirement benefits when restitution has been ordered

Thank you

Steve Chilson

Eau Claire county supervisor

District 7



BADGER FIREFIGHTERS ASSOCIATION

P.O. BOX 362; ALLENTON, WI 53002

20 September 2019

TO: Committee on Government Operations, Technology, and Consumer Protection

REFERENCE: SB-195

On behalf of the firefighters and EMTs of the Badger Firefighters Association, I urge you to consider voting in favor of this important legislation. The membership departments voted unanimously to support this bill as we feel it will make a significant attempt to reduce fires and injuries due to fires.

At this time a significant number of states have enacted similar legislation to protect our families. The Badger Firefighters Association desires that our great state, Wisconsin, does the same.

Our mission as firefighters is to teach children of the many hazards of playing with fire to prevent life changing injuries or accidents where the loss of a home or other structure could occur is hindered by allowing Novelty lighters be accessible and sold to minors.

These devices are designed to attract people to purchase or take, especially children are attracted. These novelty lighters may be a device that plays music, flashing lights, or looks like a toy, musical instrument, etc. These are created to have people [kids] to purchase.

Every month we read reports where youngsters started a fire and were injured or even killed because of playing with fire. These incidents occur due to the easy access to instruments of fire.

We prohibit the sale of smoking items [cigars, cigarettes] to minors. We are asking that we create a law that prohibits the sale of novelty lighters to minors. This legislation would NOT prohibit the sale of these items to adults.

Thank you for your consideration of holding a hearing on this legislation and trust that you will provide the leadership in moving this forward to the floor of the Assembly for a vote.

Sincerely,

Ronald J. Naab

President

Badger Firefighters Association

262-629-9749

Members of the Government Operations, Technology and Consumer Protection Committee,

Thank you for considering my testimony on SB 195, relating to the display and sale of novelty lighters. If enacted, SB 195 will not only fail to meaningfully reduce home structure fires, it will expand the size and scope of government and increase costs to taxpayers.

No Meaningful Reduction in Fires

SB 195 will not prevent children from acquiring or playing with novelty lighters because the bill does not prohibit adults from owning novelty lighters. According to the 2014 National Fire Protection Association report *Playing with Fire*, 76% of all fires from 2007-2011 were started by children aged 3-9 years old; 70% of which were started by 3-6 year olds. These very young children are not purchasing novelty lighters, but *are* likely to find them already in the home.

Playing with Fire also notes that 52% of fires were started by cigarette lighters, 18% by matches and 5% by candles. It is important to note that *the report does not differentiate between standard lighters and novelty lighters*. Neither the authors nor any supporters of this bill have produced any data that prove novelty lighters are routinely used to start home structure fires, or whether young children actually purchase novelty lighters.

Expansion of the Nanny State

Not only will SB 195 likely fail in its attempt to meaningfully reduce home structure fires, it will further expand government's already excessive role in our everyday lives. Along with banning the sale to responsible young adults, this bill would force retailers to essentially "hide" novelty lighters from adults who would be allowed to purchase legally. This inane requirement will impose an unnecessary burden on retailers with no foreseeable benefit.

This ban also opens the door to further bans and restrictions. As the Assembly author testified on AB 202, this makes sense because Wisconsin similarly regulates other smoking paraphernalia. Such rhetoric makes clear that when given an inch, government feels entitled to take a mile.

Cost to Taxpayers

According to DATCP's fiscal estimate, this bill necessitates retailer education along with compliance inspections and investigations to the tune of \$19,000/year. While a drop in the proverbial state-budget-bucket, this increase, taken with other "small increases" further contributes to our ever-growing tax burden.

In closing, government bans and restrictions do little to improve consumer safety, but much to increase costs, remove personal responsibility and unnecessarily restrict consumer choice. In the spirit of responsible governance, please consider the factual evidence against this bill and oppose any further movement of this legislation through the legislature. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Jackie Arthur

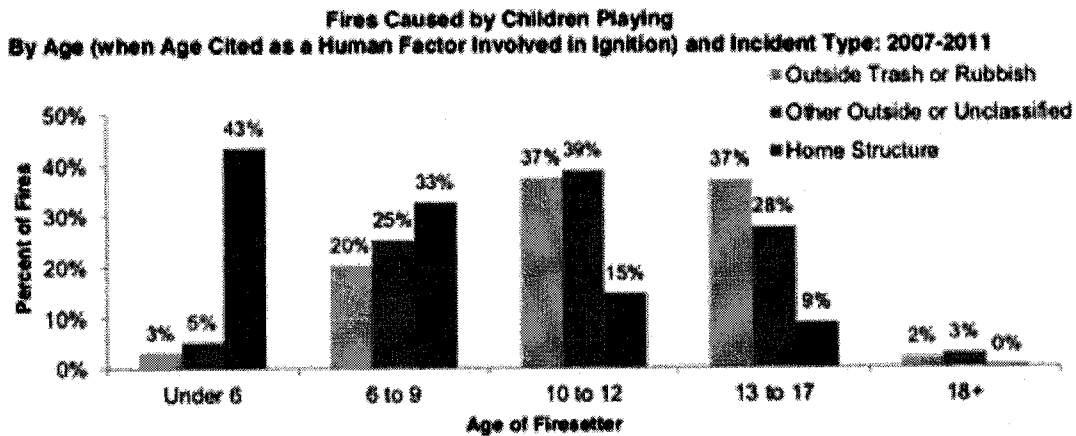
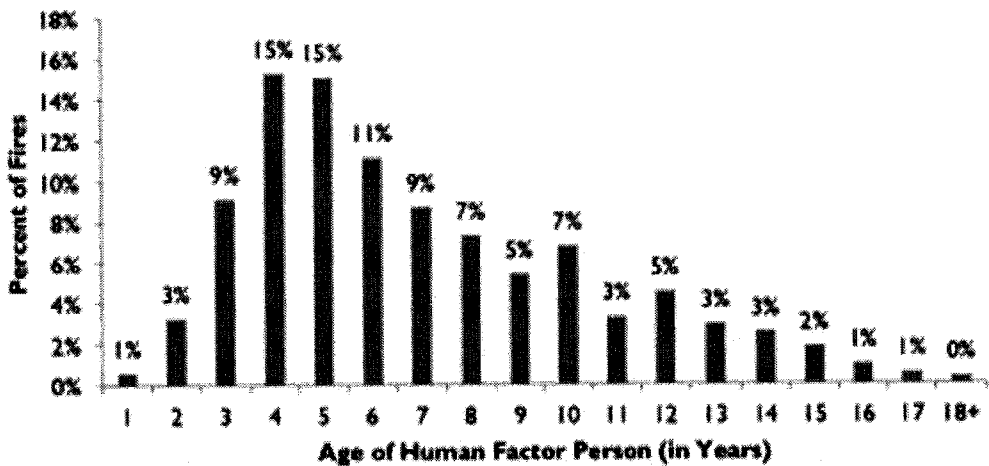


Figure 2.
Home Structure Fires Caused by Playing with Fire
(When Age Considered a Factor in Ignition)
Age of Human Factor Person, 2007-2011



Source: NFPA, *Playing with Fire*, 2014