

House Bill 500
Reduced Cigarette Ignition Propensity Standards
(RCIP)

House Bill 500 would require that only Cigarettes certified as meeting established Reduced Ignition Propensity Standards be sold in the State of Ohio after a predetermined date. The bill also establishes the rule making authority necessary to enforce and implement the legislation, a funding mechanism for enforcement and establishes the standards which provide that at least 75% of the cigarettes tested not exhibit a full length burn. In other words 75% of the tested product must self extinguish.

This legislation is **not** about where someone can smoke or an individual's right to smoke. It is about making cigarettes safer.

How do Reduced Ignition Propensity Cigarettes work? A reduced propensity cigarette is less likely to burn when left unattended. The most common fire-safe technology used by cigarette manufacturers is to wrap cigarettes with two or three bands of less-porous paper that act as "speed bumps" to slow down a burning cigarette. When left unattended a reduced propensity cigarette will self-extinguish when the burning tobacco reaches on of these bands.

This legislation is supported by the Tobacco Industry. R.J. Reynolds has announced that they will produce only RCIP Cigarettes after January 1, 2010 and Philip Morris USA is supportive of this effort.

9 States have passed legislation that has taken effect, 14 States have passed legislation and are awaiting implementation of the legislation and 19 States have introduced similar legislation.

Ohio Fire Data Related to Cigarettes

In 2005 there were 19 (16%) fire deaths caused by smoking (119 total deaths)

In 2005 1,383 (3%) fires were caused by smoking (47,951 total fires)

In 2005 there were 59 (7.3%) civilian injuries caused by smoking (809 total injuries)

In 2005 smoking related fires caused \$5,712,759 in property damage

Since 1990 there have been 42,276 smoking related fires causing \$234,599,212 in fire loss, 2,480 injuries and 497 deaths.

National Fire Data Related to Cigarettes

Smoking is the number one cause of home fire deaths in the United States.

Between 700 and 900 people are killed every year from smoking material home fires.

There were 82,400 smoking-material structure fires in the United States in 2005.

Of the fatal victims who were not the smokers: 34% were children of the smokers, 25% were neighbors or friends of the smokers.

One in four people killed in home fires is not the smoker whose cigarettes caused the fire.

The Success of Reduced Ignition Propensity Cigarettes

New York and Vermont are the only states that have had their legislation long enough to see what kind of effect it may have.

Vermont has seen their fire deaths from cigarettes drop to zero in 2007 from a 10 year average of 2.7 annually which accounted for 24% of their fire fatalities (27). They have also seen a 40% drop in the number of structure fires caused by smoking materials in 2007 over the previous 5 year average.

In New York there was a 35% drop in fire deaths in the first six months that RCIP cigarettes were sold. Annualized this represented a 48% reduction in the average seen from 2000 to 2002.