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393

SENATE COMMITTEE REPORT
FIRST COMMITTEE OF REFERRAL

DATE: January 18, 1990

FURTHER:

Date of 5-Day Notice: 2/8/90
(in accordance with Uniform Rule 23)

DATE TURNED INTO OFFICE: 2/12/90

Labor and Commerce Committee considered SENATE BILL NO. 393

"An Act relating to sale or rental of recreational motor vehicles; and providing for an effective date."

and recommended:

- replace with _____ CS _____ same title
- attached amendment(s) new title
- _____ letter of intent adopted

do pass

do not pass

no recommendation

individual recommendations

further referral to _____

ATTACHES NEW FISCAL NOTE(S):
Department(s)/Date:

Department(s)/Date:

fiscal note(s) _____

zero fiscal note(s) _____
Dept of Public Safety

appropriation-no fiscal note

Governor's bill w/fiscal note

SIGNING DO PASS:

OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS:

Chair: Signature and Recommendation

Alaska State Legislature



SENATOR BETTYE FAHRENKAMP
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Senate

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Senator Richard Eliason, Chairman
Senate Labor & Commerce Committee

FROM: Senator Bettye Fahrenkamp

DATE: February 12, 1990

SUBJECT: Senate Bill 393
"An Act relating to sale or rental of recreational motor vehicles; efd."

I was approached by several people in Fairbanks and urged to sponsor legislation to require that propane detectors be required in all recreational vehicles sold or rented in Alaska. Their promptings came as a result of a particularly bad accident in Fairbanks. A couple had just purchased a motor home and decided to spend the night in it while it was parked out in their driveway, just to see what it was like before they took it traveling. There was a propane leak resulting from a faulty factory-installed hookup, and an explosion. Both the husband and wife were burned, with the wife suffering very serious injuries.

Propane detectors are relatively inexpensive (approximately \$100 for a 12 volt detector with an adaptor for 120 volt current). They sound an alarm when a certain percentage of the lower explosion limit of propane is detected in the air. This percentage varies with the device. The \$100 unit referred to above sounds when 25% of the lower explosion limit is detected. Another unit, which also automatically shuts off the gas flow and sells for \$180, sounds when 10% of the lower limit is detected.

In a recent conversation with the serviceman at Petrolane here in Juneau, I was told that many people try to perform their own servicing on motor homes. Improper maintenance, over-use of appliances and systems (e.g., living full time in a motor home that was designed for weekend and recreational use), and trying to modify devices all contribute to leaky propane systems. Petrolane will no longer send people out to service RVs because they are so concerned about liability and safety.

This bill would require installation of propane gas detectors on newer RVs (1990 models and newer) sold or rented after January 1, 1992. I think it is a positive step toward safety and consumer protection, and urge your favorable consideration.

FISCAL NOTE

REQUEST:

Revision Date: _____ Agency Affected: Public Safety
 Title: Safety of Propane Gas Devices
on RV'S BRU: DMV
 Sponsor: Fahrenkamp Component: _____
 Requestor: Senate Labor & Commerce

EXPENDITURES/REVENUES: (Thousands of Dollars) (Inflation not included)

OPERATING	FY 91	FY 92	FY 93	FY 94	FY 95	FY 96
PERSONAL SERVICES						
TRAVEL						
CONTRACTUAL						
SUPPLIES						
EQUIPMENT						
LAND & STRUCTURES						
GRANTS, CLAIMS						
MISCELLANEOUS						
TOTAL OPERATING	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-

CAPITAL	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
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REVENUE	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
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FUNDING: (Thousands of Dollars)

GENERAL FUND						
FEDERAL FUNDS						
OTHER						
TOTAL	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-

POSITIONS:

FULL-TIME	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
PART-TIME	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
TEMPORARY	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

No fiscal impact.

Prepared by: Juanita M. Hensley
 Division: DMV

Phone: 465-4361
 Date: 02/12/90

Approved by Commissioner: Arthur English
 Agency: Department of Public Safety

Date: 2-12-90

2/12/90