

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau 2007 Assembly Bill 717

Current law does not require cigarettes to meet any standards with regard to fire safety. Under this bill, cigarettes sold in Wisconsin must meet the fire safety performance standard specified in the bill. The performance standard requires that not more than 25 percent of the cigarettes tested may exhibit full-length burns. The bill establishes requirements for the testing procedures and allows the Department of Commerce (Commerce) to consider an alternative testing method and alternative performance standard, either proposed by a manufacturer or adopted by another state, if Commerce determines that a type of cigarette made by the manufacturer cannot be tested using the standard test method specified in the bill.

The bill requires the manufacturer to file a written certification with Commerce stating the cigarettes it seeks to sell in Wisconsin meet the fire safety performance standard. The manufacturer must also provide a copy of this certification to each person authorized to sell cigarettes in this state, other than a retailer. The bill also requires the manufacturer to mark cigarette packaging to show that the cigarettes being sold are covered by a certification.