

# HOUSE BILL REPORT

## SHB 1429

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**As Passed House**

March 11, 1997

**Title:** An act relating to littering.

**Brief Description:** Penalizing cigarette discard.

**Sponsors:** By House Committee on Agriculture & Ecology (originally sponsored by Representatives Sump, O'Brien, Sullivan, Mielke, Mulliken and Sherstad).

**Brief History:**

**Committee Activity:**

Agriculture & Ecology: 2/6/97, 2/13/97 [DPS].

**Floor Activity:**

Passed House: 3/11/97, 97-0.

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### HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE & ECOLOGY

**Majority Report:** The substitute bill be substituted therefor and the substitute bill do pass. Signed by 11 members: Representatives Chandler, Chairman; Parlette, Vice Chairman; Schoesler, Vice Chairman; Linville, Ranking Minority Member; Anderson, Assistant Ranking Minority Member; Cooper; Delvin; Koster; Mastin; Regala and Sump.

**Staff:** Rick Anderson (786-7114).

**Background:** The penalty for littering is a civil infraction. Littering in amounts of one cubic foot or less is subject to a penalty of \$50. Littering in amounts greater than one cubic foot is subject to penalty of up to \$250 and a cleanup fee of \$25 per cubic foot of litter.

**Summary of Bill:** The penalty for litter infractions involving a cigarette, cigar, or other tobacco product is increased to \$500 dollars, if the illegally discarded object is capable of starting a fire.

**Appropriation:** None.

**Fiscal Note:** Not requested.

**Effective Date:** Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.

**Testimony For:** When people litter with cigarettes, cigars, and other tobacco products they pose a great environmental risk. Fires caused as a result of this type of littering can increase erosion, sedimentation, loss of habitat, air pollution, as well as a loss of jobs. Litter penalties should better reflect the risk that this type of littering poses.

**Testimony Against:** None.

**Testified:** Representative Sump, prime sponsor.