

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to lighters and matches; creating s.
 3 877.28, F.S.; providing definitions; prohibiting the
 4 purchase of a lighter or matches by a minor;
 5 prohibiting a retailer from giving a lighter or
 6 matches to a minor; requiring a retailer to verify the
 7 age of a purchaser of a lighter or matches;
 8 restricting the location of lighters or matches by
 9 retailers; requiring specified signage for retailers
 10 of lighters or matches; providing criminal penalties
 11 for violations; providing an effective date.

12
 13 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

14
 15 Section 1. Section 877.28, Florida Statutes, is created to
 16 read:

17 877.28 Lighters and matches; minors.-

18 (1) As used in this section, the term:

19 (a) "Lighter" means a portable device that uses a
 20 flammable gas or liquid to provide a naked flame or a red-hot
 21 filament to light cigarettes, cigars, pipes, grills, fireplaces,
 22 campfires, or campfire stoves. A lighter may include, but is not
 23 limited to, a custom lighter, cigar lighter, pipe lighter,
 24 candle lighter, outdoor grill lighter, camping lighter, novelty
 25 lighter, table lighter, butane lighter, and any other self-
 26 contained portable flame-producing device.

27 (b) "Matches" means a lighter consisting of a thin piece
 28 of wood or cardboard tipped with a combustible chemical that

HB 559

2012

29 will ignite with friction. Matches may include, but are not
30 limited to, safety matches, strike-anywhere matches, storm
31 matches, Bengal matches, a matchbook, and a matchbox.

32 (2) It is unlawful for a minor to purchase a lighter or
33 matches.

34 (3) It is unlawful for any retailer to sell or give a
35 lighter or matches to a minor.

36 (4) (a) A retailer must verify the age of a person who is
37 purchasing a lighter or matches.

38 (b) Lighters and matches must be located by a retailer so
39 as to limit direct access to them by a customer before purchase.

40 (c) Each retailer selling lighters or matches must post a
41 sign stating, "The sale of lighters and matches to a person
42 under the age of 18 is prohibited."

43 (5) A person who violates this section commits:

44 (a) For a first violation, a misdemeanor of the second
45 degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083.

46 (b) For a second or subsequent violation, a misdemeanor of
47 the first degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s.
48 775.083.

49 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2012.