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State of Minnesota

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NINETY-FOURTH SESSION

H. F. No. **1546**

02/26/2025 Authored by O'Driscoll

The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Workforce, Labor, and Economic Development Finance and Policy

02/27/2025 By motion, recalled and re-referred to the Committee on Commerce Finance and Policy

1.1 A bill for an act

1.2 relating to public safety; repealing outdated fire safety measures pre-dating the

1.3 statewide fire code; repealing Minnesota Statutes 2024, sections 325F.02; 325F.03;

1.4 325F.04; 325F.05; 325F.06; 325F.07.

1.5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

1.6 Section 1. **REPEALER.**

1.7 Minnesota Statutes 2024, sections 325F.02; 325F.03; 325F.04; 325F.05; 325F.06; and

1.8 325F.07, are repealed.

325F.02 MANUFACTURE, STORAGE, OR SALE OF MATCHES.

Subdivision 1. **Safety matches.** No person, association, or corporation shall manufacture, store, offer for sale, sell, or otherwise dispose of, or distribute, white phosphorus, single-dipped, strike-anywhere matches of the type popularly known as "parlor matches", or any type of double-dipped matches, unless the bulb or first dip of such match is composed of a so-called safety or inert composition, nonignitable on an abrasive surface. No person, association, or corporation shall manufacture, store, sell, offer for sale, or otherwise dispose of, or distribute, matches which will ignite in a laboratory oven at a temperature of less than 200 degrees Fahrenheit when subjected in such laboratory oven to a gradually increasing heat and maintained at the before stated continuous temperature for a period of not less than eight hours, or blazer or so-called wind matches, whether of the so-called safety or strike-anywhere type.

Subd. 2. **Brands and trademarks.** No person, association, or corporation shall offer for sale, sell or otherwise dispose of, or distribute, any matches, unless the package or container in which such matches are packed bears, plainly marked on the outside thereof, the name of the manufacturer and the brand or trademark under which such matches are sold, disposed of, or distributed.

Subd. 3. **How kept in retail stores.** Not more than one case of each brand of matches of any type or manufacture shall be opened at any one time in any retail store where matches are sold or otherwise disposed of; nor shall loose boxes, or paper-wrapped packages, of matches be kept on shelves or stored in retail stores at a height exceeding five feet from the floor.

Subd. 4. **Storage in warehouses.** All matches stored in warehouses, excepting manufacturer's warehouse at place of manufacture, which contain automatic sprinkler equipment, must be kept only in properly secured cases, and not piled to a height exceeding ten feet from the floor; nor be stored within a horizontal distance of ten feet from any boiler, furnace, stove, or other like heating apparatus, nor within a horizontal distance of 25 feet from any explosive material kept or stored on the same floor.

Subd. 5. **Boxes, how made.** All matches shall be packed in boxes or suitable packages, containing not more than 700 matches in any one box or package; provided, that when more than 300 matches are packed in any one box or package, the matches shall be arranged in two nearly equal portions, the heads of the matches in the two portions shall be placed in opposite directions; and all boxes containing 350 or more matches shall have placed over the matches a center holding or protecting strip, made of chipboard, not less than 1-1/4 inches wide, which shall be flanged down to hold the matches in position when the box is nested into the shuck or withdrawn from it.

Subd. 6. **Containers or cases; number of boxes or packages; how marked.** All match boxes or packages shall be packed in strong shipping containers or cases; maximum number of match boxes or packages contained in any one shipping container or case shall not exceed the following number:

Number of boxes	Numerical number of matches per box
1/2 gross	700
1 gross	500
2 gross	400
3 gross	300
5 gross	200
12 gross	100
20 gross	Over 50 and under 100
25 gross	Under 50

No shipping container or case constructed of fiberboard, corrugated fiberboard, or wood, nailed or wire-bound, containing matches, shall have a weight, including its contents, exceeding 75 pounds; and no lock-cornered wood case containing matches shall have a weight, including its contents, exceeding 85 pounds; nor shall any other article or commodity be packed with matches in any container or case; and all shipping containers or cases containing strike-anywhere matches shall have plainly marked on the outside thereof the words "strike-anywhere matches," and all shipping

containers or cases containing "strike on box" matches shall have plainly marked on the outside thereof the words "strike on box matches."

Subd. 7. **Violations; penalties.** Any person, association, or corporation violating any of the provisions of this section shall be fined, for the first offense, not less than \$5 nor more than \$25 and for each subsequent violation, not less than \$25.

325F.03 FLAME RESISTANT PUBLIC ASSEMBLY TENTS.

No person, firm or corporation shall establish, maintain or operate any circus, side show, carnival, tent show, theater, skating rink, dance hall, or a similar exhibition, production, engagement or offering or other place of assemblage in or under which 15 or more persons may gather for any lawful purpose in any tent, awning or other fabric enclosure unless such tent, awning or other fabric enclosure, and all auxiliary tents, curtains, drops, awnings and all decorative materials, are made from a nonflammable material or are treated and maintained in a flame resistant condition. This section does not apply to tents designed or manufactured for camping, backpacking, mountaineering, or children's play; tents used to conduct committal services on the grounds of a cemetery; nor to tents, awnings or other fabric enclosures erected and used within a sound stage, or other similar structural enclosure which is equipped with an overhead automatic sprinkler system.

325F.04 FLAME RESISTANT TENTS.

No person, firm, or corporation may sell or offer for sale or manufacture for sale in this state any tent subject to section 325F.03 unless all fabrics or pliable materials in the tent are durably flame resistant. Tents subject to section 325F.03 shall be conspicuously labeled as being durably flame resistant.

325F.05 RULES.

The commissioner of public safety shall act so as to have effective rules concerning standards for durably flame resistant materials and for labeling requirements under sections 325F.03 and 325F.04. In order to comply with sections 325F.03 and 325F.04, all materials and labels must comply with the rules adopted by the commissioner. The commissioner has general rulemaking power to otherwise implement sections 325F.03 to 325F.07.

325F.06 CIVIL PENALTIES.

Any firm or corporation who violates sections 325F.03 to 325F.05 shall be strictly liable for any damage which occurs to any person as a result of such violation. In addition, any seller shall refund the full purchase price of any item sold in violation of section 325F.04 upon return of the item by the buyer.

325F.07 CRIMINAL PENALTY.

Any person, firm or corporation which violates sections 325F.03 to 325F.05 is guilty of a misdemeanor.