

106TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 3628

To prohibit the importation of bidi cigarettes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 10, 2000

Mr. GALLEGLY (for himself and Mr. HANSEN) introduced the following bill;
which was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means

A BILL

To prohibit the importation of bidi cigarettes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. FINDINGS.**

4 The Congress finds the following:

5 (1) 430,000 people die every year from tobacco
6 use.

7 (2) Medical expenses from treating smoking-re-
8 lated diseases cost the United States economy
9 \$89,000,000,000 annually.

10 (3) 6,000 children try smoking every day, half
11 of whom will become daily smokers.

1 (4) Almost 90 percent of current adult smokers
2 began at or before the legal age of 18.

3 (5) 1 in 3 children who begin smoking now will
4 eventually die from smoking-related diseases.

5 (6) Studies have shown that the earlier an indi-
6 vidual begins smoking, the more likely it is that he
7 or she will become addicted.

8 (7) Studies indicate that bidi cigarettes manu-
9 factured with flavors, such as strawberry, chocolate,
10 mandarin orange, vanilla, grape, lemon-lime, clove,
11 mint, cinnamon, wild cherry, mango, cardamom, lic-
12 orice, and raspberry, are more likely to induce chil-
13 dren to smoke.

14 (8) Smoking among adults has been decreasing
15 in recent years, but smoking among youth remains
16 at historically high levels, a situation which bidi
17 cigarettes could exacerbate.

18 (9) Studies show that bidi cigarettes are more
19 likely to be sold illegally to youth and without re-
20 quired warning labels.

21 (10) Because of similar appearance to mari-
22 juana cigarettes, bidi cigarettes are considered to be
23 a more likely “gateway drug”, and could lead to
24 more children using illegal drugs.

1 (11) Bidi cigarettes generally deliver 3 to 8
2 times more nicotine, and are therefore more addict-
3 ing than conventional United States filtered ciga-
4 rettes.

5 (12) Smokers of bidi cigarettes show an in-
6 creased risk of coronary heart disease and cancers of
7 the mouth, pharynx and larynx, esophagus, stomach,
8 and liver.

9 (13) Bidi cigarettes contain 3 times more car-
10 bon monoxide and 5 times more tar, as well as high-
11 er levels of phenol, ammonia, nitrosamines, and hy-
12 drogen cyanide, than conventional United States fil-
13 tered cigarettes.

14 (14) Attorneys General from all 50 States and
15 the United States Virgin Islands have urged the
16 Federal Government to take action to stop the im-
17 portation of bidi cigarettes.

18 **SEC. 2. PROHIBITION ON IMPORTATION OF BIDI CIGA-**
19 **RETTES.**

20 No bidi cigarettes may be imported into the United
21 States.

22 **SEC. 3. BIDI CIGARETTE DEFINED.**

23 In this Act, the term “bidi cigarette” means a prod-
24 uct that—

1 (1) contains tobacco that is wrapped in
2 temburni or tendu leaf, or that is wrapped in any
3 other material identified by the Secretary of the
4 Treasury because the material is similar in appear-
5 ance or other characteristics to the temburni or
6 tendu leaf; and

7 (2) does not contain a smoke filtering device.

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