

Public Law 100-604  
100th Congress

## Joint Resolution

Nov. 3, 1988  
[S.J. Res. 381]**To designate October 30, 1988, as "Fire Safety at Home Day—Change Your Clock, Change Your Battery".**

**Whereas every year, five hundred thousand fires ravage the homes of Americans, resulting in over six thousand deaths and three hundred thousand injuries;**

**Whereas home fires are the leading cause of death and serious injury among children in the United States;**

**Whereas senior citizens, families in substandard housing, and the physically and mentally disabled are at high risk to be victims of fire;**

**Whereas three out of four homes have at least one smoke detector, but an estimated one-half are inoperable because of worn or missing batteries;**

**Whereas the International Association of Fire Chiefs estimates that the annual practice of changing batteries in smoke detectors would save thousands of lives and billions of dollars in property damage;**

**Whereas the Congressional Fire Services Caucus, with its broad-based bipartisan membership, reflects the concern of Congress for fire safety and its dedication to making it an important national priority;**

**Whereas the designation of a special day to remind Americans to properly maintain their smoke detectors, timed to coincide with the fall ritual of resetting clocks, would greatly diminish this human tragedy; and**

**Whereas October 30, 1988, is the day Americans change their clocks from daylight saving time: Now, therefore, be it**

*Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the thirtieth day of October 1988 is hereby designated as "Fire Safety at Home Day—Change Your Clock, Change Your Battery". The President is requested to issue a proclamation calling upon the people of the United States to observe that day by maintaining their first line of defense against fire by changing the batteries in their smoke detectors when they reset their clocks from daylight saving time.*

Approved November 3, 1988.

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**LEGISLATIVE HISTORY—S.J. Res. 381:****CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, Vol. 134 (1988):**

Oct. 20, considered and passed Senate.

Oct. 21, considered and passed House.