

107TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1454

To prohibit the importation of bidi cigarettes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 4, 2001

Mr. GALLEGLY 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, lie-
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 **RETTEES.**

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.

○