

[Third Reprint]

**ASSEMBLY, No. 3388**

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**  
**212th LEGISLATURE**

INTRODUCED JUNE 26, 2006

**Sponsored by:**

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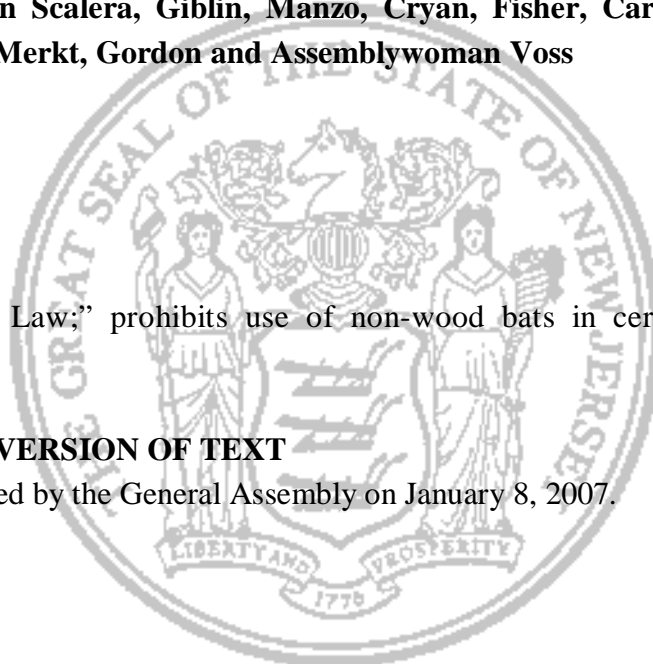
**Assemblymen Scalera, Giblin, Manzo, Cryan, Fisher, Caraballo, Prieto,  
Burzichelli, Merkt, Gordon and Assemblywoman Voss**

**SYNOPSIS**

“Steven’s Law;” prohibits use of non-wood bats in certain organized games.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As amended by the General Assembly on January 8, 2007.



**(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 1/30/2007)**

1 AN ACT prohibiting the use of non-wood bats in certain organized  
2 games, <sup>3</sup>designating the act as “Steven’s Law,”<sup>3</sup> and  
3 supplementing Title 5 of the Revised Statutes.  
4

5 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State  
6 of New Jersey:  
7

8 1. The Legislature finds and declares that:

9 a. The hitting of baseballs using non-wood bats may cause a  
10 baseball to repel off of a bat at a velocity that exceeds the human  
11 reaction time necessary to perceive the ball and properly react;

12 b. While the safety hazard presented by non-wood bats is  
13 difficult to quantify, it is generally agreed that non-wood bats hit  
14 the ball with greater force than wood bats and present a greater risk  
15 of injury;

16 c. Between 1991 and 2001, 15 players were killed by batted  
17 balls from bats determined to be made of non-wood aluminum,  
18 composite, or unknown substances, while only two ‘deaths’<sup>1</sup> are  
19 known to have been ‘caused by bats’<sup>1</sup> made from wood;

20 d. Steven Domalewski, a 12-year-old pitcher from the Police  
21 Athletic League in Wayne, New Jersey, was struck in the chest with  
22 a ball hit by a non-wood bat, and suffered a near-fatal disruption of  
23 the heart’s electrical system that caused his heart to stop, sending  
24 him into a coma; and

25 e. It is necessary and proper for the State to intervene to protect  
26 the health and safety of its young athletes, and that the benefits  
27 associated with a reduced risk of death or serious injury outweigh  
28 the costs associated with replacing non-wood bats with wood bats.  
29

30 2. As used in this act:

31 <sup>1</sup>“Minor” means a person who is less than 18 years of age;<sup>1</sup>

32 “Non-wood bat” means any non-wood baseball <sup>2</sup>[or softball]<sup>2</sup>  
33 bat including, but not limited to, a bat made of metal, titanium,  
34 scandium, aluminum or any other alloy compound, but shall not  
35 include any wood, composite, laminated or composite-coated wood  
36 bat that shall be approved for play upon verified test data that these  
37 bats perform, weigh and are balanced like wood bats; <sup>2</sup>and<sup>2</sup>

38 “Organized game” means any baseball <sup>2</sup>[or softball]<sup>2</sup> game  
39 organized by or affiliated with: a public or nonpublic school; any  
40 nonprofit youth serving organization as defined by section 1 of P.L.  
41 1999, c.432 (C.15A:3A-1), including but not limited to, Little  
42 Leagues, Babe Ruth Leagues, Police Athletic Leagues, and the

**EXPLANATION** – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **[thus]** in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

**Matter underlined thus is new matter.**

**Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:**

<sup>1</sup>Assembly ALP committee amendments adopted October 19, 2006.

<sup>2</sup>Assembly floor amendments adopted December 11, 2006.

<sup>3</sup>Assembly floor amendments adopted January 8, 2007.

1 American Legion; a county or municipal recreation department; or  
2 the governing body of a county or municipality<sup>1</sup>; and

3 “Minor” means an individual who is less than 18 years of age<sup>1</sup>.

4

5 3. It shall be unlawful to use a non-wood bat in any organized  
6 game in which minors are participants, excluding those games  
7 where one of the teams participating in the game is organized by or  
8 affiliated with a school, nonprofit youth organization, county or  
9 municipal recreation department, or governing body of a county or  
10 municipality outside of this State.

11 The board of education of a school district, the governing board  
12 or chief school administrator of a nonpublic school, the governing  
13 body of a county or municipality, or the governing body of a  
14 nonprofit youth serving organization shall ensure compliance with  
15 the provisions of this act in any organized game it organizes or is  
16 affiliated with, or in which its team participates.

17

18 4. This act shall take effect on the <sup>1</sup>[180th] first<sup>1</sup> day <sup>1</sup>of the  
19 seventh month<sup>1</sup> after enactment.