

ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION No. 72

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 213th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2008 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman NILSA CRUZ-PEREZ

District 5 (Camden and Gloucester)

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District 37 (Bergen)

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SYNOPSIS

Memorializes Congress and President to enact toy safety legislation.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 5/6/2008)

AR72 CRUZ-PEREZ, VAINIERI HUTTLE

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1 AN ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION memorializing Congress and the
2 President to enact toy safety legislation.

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4 WHEREAS, American consumers have been inundated with recent
5 safety recalls of children's toys; and

6 WHEREAS, These recalls have been issued for a wide variety of
7 reasons, including ingestion hazards, such as choking and
8 poisoning; and

9 WHEREAS, Some of these recalls have been for toys which include
10 dangerously strong, small magnets, which, if ingested, can stick to
11 one another through human tissue and cause intestinal perforations;
12 and

13 WHEREAS, Other recalled toys were composed of 1,4-butanediol,
14 which, when ingested, can metabolize into what is commonly
15 known as the date rape drug, and can induce respiratory depression,
16 a state of unconsciousness, seizures or a coma; and

17 WHEREAS, Many of the recalled toys have been found to be made with
18 lead paint; and

19 WHEREAS, Young children, especially those of teething age, typically
20 put their toys in their mouths; and

21 WHEREAS, Toys have also been recalled for a variety of other safety
22 reasons, such as incorporating dangerous projectiles and placing a
23 child at risk of burns; and

24 WHEREAS, Exposure of children to such toxic chemicals and other
25 hazards which can result in serious injury and possible death is
26 unconscionable; and

27 WHEREAS, It is within the authority, duty, and responsibilities of both
28 the federal and State government to ensure the safety and wellbeing
29 of all children; and

30 WHEREAS, The federal Consumer Product Safety Commission
31 (CPSC), is charged with guaranteeing consumer products are safe
32 for use by the public; and

33 WHEREAS, The CPSC has suffered repeated budget cuts and staff
34 reductions over the past several years, losing more than half of its
35 employees since its inception; and

36 WHEREAS, The distressing number of recent toy recalls indicates a
37 clear and present danger to children everywhere and calls for a
38 significant strengthening of the CPSC, in both funding and
39 personnel, to enable the commission to do its job effectively and
40 efficiently in order to protect all children from unsafe playthings;
41 and

42 WHEREAS, It is therefore fitting and proper that the General Assembly
43 of the State of New Jersey urge the federal government to enact
44 legislation that would better protect our children; now therefore,

45

46 BE IT RESOLVED by the General Assembly of the State of New
47 Jersey:

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- 1 1. This House memorializes Congress and the President of the
2 United States to enact legislation:
- 3 a. Banning the use of lead and other toxic chemicals in
4 children's toys;
- 5 b. Increasing safety testing of children's toys;
- 6 c. Increasing penalties for manufacturers which produce
7 children's toys that do not meet the standards required by the laws
8 of this nation or the rules, regulations, and guidelines promulgated
9 by the Consumer Product Safety Commission; and
- 10 d. Increasing the power and authority of the Consumer Product
11 Safety Commission so that it is better equipped to meet its
12 objectives and protect the children of this nation.
- 13
- 14 2. Duly authenticated copies of this resolution, signed by the
15 Speaker of the General Assembly, and attested by the Clerk thereof,
16 shall be transmitted to every member of Congress and the President
17 of the United States of America.

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STATEMENT

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- 22 In response to the vast number of recent recalls of children toys,
23 this resolution memorializes Congress and the President of the
24 United States to enact legislation:
- 25 a. Banning the use of lead and other toxic chemicals in
26 children's toys;
- 27 b. Increasing safety testing of children's toys;
- 28 c. Increasing penalties for manufacturers which produce
29 children's toys that do not meet the standards required by law, rule,
30 regulation, or guideline; and
- 31 d. Increasing the power and authority of the Consumer Product
32 Safety Commission so that it is better equipped to meet its
33 objectives.