

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION No. 10

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

INTRODUCED JANUARY 29, 1996

By Senator BASSANO

1 **A JOINT RESOLUTION** creating a commission to examine the utility
2 and desirability of enacting legislation to regulate, restrict, or
3 prohibit the sale of toy guns that resemble real firearms in
4 appearance.

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6 **WHEREAS**, Certain toy guns are manufactured with such great
7 attention to detail that it is quite difficult to distinguish them
8 quickly and easily from real firearms; and

9 **WHEREAS**, While such toys are appealing to children precisely because
10 they are so realistic in appearance, that realism can pose significant
11 problems and dangers; and

12 **WHEREAS**, The easy availability of realistic looking toy guns can
13 enable young toughs and petty thugs to wreak havoc and terrorize
14 peaceable citizens; and

15 **WHEREAS**, For law enforcement officers, who all too often are
16 required to make split-second decisions, the inability to determine
17 instantly whether they are confronting a toy gun or a real firearm
18 can be fatal; and

19 **WHEREAS**, It is, therefore, altogether fitting and proper, and within
20 the public interest, to create a special commission to study the
21 desirability of enacting legislation that would either regulate or
22 prohibit altogether the sale of toy guns that closely resemble real
23 firearms in appearance; now, therefore,

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25 **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
26 *of New Jersey:*

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28 1. There is created a commission, to be known as the Toy Gun
29 Study Commission, to consist of 17 members as follows: the Attorney
30 General, who shall serve as the chairman of the commission; the
31 Superintendent of State Police; three members of the Senate to be
32 appointed by the President thereof, no more than two of whom shall
33 be of the same political party; three members of the General Assembly
34 to be appointed by the Speaker thereof, no more than two of whom
35 shall be of the same political party; three representatives of local law
36 enforcement agencies, one of whom shall be appointed by the
37 Governor, one by the Senate President and one by the Speaker of the

1 General Assembly; three representatives of manufacturers of toy guns,
2 one appointed by the Governor, one by the Senate President, and one
3 by the Speaker of the General Assembly; and three representatives of
4 retail toy merchants, one appointed by the Governor, one by the
5 Senate President, and one by the Speaker of the General Assembly.
6 The members of the commission shall serve without compensation, but
7 may be reimbursed for necessary expenses incurred in the performance
8 of their duties. Any vacancy in the membership of the commission
9 shall be filled by appointment in the same manner as the original
10 appointment was made.

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12 2. The commission shall organize as soon as may be practicable
13 after the appointment of its members. The members shall select a
14 secretary, who need not be a member of the commission.

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16 3. The commission is directed to examine the utility and desirability
17 of enacting legislation designed to regulate, restrict or prohibit the sale
18 of toy guns that closely resemble real firearms in appearance.

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20 4. The commission is entitled to the assistance and service of the
21 employees of any State, county or municipal department, board,
22 bureau, commission or agency as it may require and as may be
23 available to it for its purposes, and to employ stenographic and clerical
24 assistance and incur traveling and other miscellaneous expenses as may
25 be necessary in order to perform its duties, within the limits of funds
26 appropriated or otherwise made available to it for its purposes.

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28 5. The commission may meet and hold hearings at the places its
29 designates during the sessions or recesses of the Legislature and shall
30 report its findings and recommendations to the Governor and the
31 Legislature, along with any legislative bills it desires to recommend for
32 adoption by the Legislature, no later than six months following the
33 organization of the commission pursuant to section 2 of this joint
34 resolution.

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36 6. This joint resolution shall take effect immediately and shall
37 expire upon the submission of the commission's final report, as
38 prescribed in section 5 of this joint resolution.

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STATEMENT

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43 This joint resolution creates a 17-member commission to study the
44 utility and desirability of regulating, restricting or prohibiting the sale
45 of toy guns that closely resemble real firearms in appearance. Toy
46 guns that are difficult to distinguish from real firearms pose problems

1 for law enforcement officers who often are required to make
2 split-second decisions. These toys can also be troublesome in the
3 hands of young toughs and petty thugs who use them for criminal
4 activities and to terrorize the public.

5 The commission is to consist of the Attorney General, who is to
6 serve as the chairman; the Superintendent of State Police; three
7 Senators; three members of the General Assembly; three
8 representatives of local law enforcement agencies; three
9 representatives of the manufacturers of toy guns; and three
10 representatives of the retail toy merchants. Under the resolution, the
11 Governor, Senate President and Speaker of the General Assembly are
12 each to appoint one of the representatives of the local law enforcement
13 agencies, toy gun manufacturers, and retail toy merchants.

14 The commission is to submit its report to the Governor and the
15 Legislature within six months of its organization, along with any
16 legislative bills it may wish to recommend for adoption by the
17 Legislature.

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23 Creates a commission to study desirability of regulating sale of toy
guns that resemble real firearms