

# ASSEMBLY, No. 1459

## STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2020 SESSION

**Sponsored by:**

Assemblyman **PAUL D. MORIARTY**

District 4 (Camden and Gloucester)

Assemblyman **GORDON M. JOHNSON**

District 37 (Bergen)

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District 14 (Mercer and Middlesex)

**Co-Sponsored by:**

Assemblywomen **Murphy, McKnight and Timberlake**

**SYNOPSIS**

Prohibits the sale of certain children's products containing lead, mercury, or cadmium.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 1/27/2020)

1 AN ACT concerning certain children's products containing certain  
2 metals and supplementing Title 2C of the New Jersey Statutes  
3 and P.L.1960, c.39 (C.56:8-1 et seq.).  
4

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

8 1. a. As used in this act, "children's product" means a product,  
9 including a toy or play equipment, that is designed or intended  
10 solely or primarily:

11 (1) for the care of, or use by, a child; or

12 (2) to come into contact with a child while the product is used.

13 b. For the purposes of P.L. , c. (C. ) (pending before  
14 the Legislature as this bill), "children's product" shall not be  
15 construed to include a product that may be used by or for the care of  
16 a child, but it is designed or intended for use by the general  
17 population, or segments of the general population, and not solely or  
18 primarily for use by or for the care of a child.  
19

20 2. No person shall sell, offer for sale, distribute, import, or  
21 manufacture any children's product intended for use by a child  
22 under the age of 6 containing, composed of, or made with lead,  
23 mercury, or cadmium.  
24

25 3. Any manufacturer, distributor, or importer of a children's  
26 product intended for use by a child under the age of 6, who  
27 discovers that the children's product contains, is composed of, or is  
28 made with lead, mercury, or cadmium, shall issue an immediate  
29 recall for that children's product.  
30

31 4. The Director of Consumer Affairs shall issue an immediate  
32 recall for any children's product intended for use by a child under  
33 the age of 6 which he discovers contains, is composed of, or is  
34 made with lead, mercury, or cadmium.  
35

36 5. a. Within 48 hours of receiving notice from the Director of  
37 Consumer Affairs or a manufacturer, distributor, or importer that a  
38 children's product intended for use by a child under the age of 6 has  
39 been recalled because it contains, is composed of, or is made with  
40 lead, mercury, or cadmium, a retail mercantile establishment shall  
41 remove the children's product from any display and make it  
42 unavailable for purchase.

43 b. Within 14 business days of receiving notice from the  
44 Director of Consumer Affairs or a manufacturer, distributor, or  
45 importer that a children's product intended for use by a child under  
46 the age of 6 has been recalled because it contains, is composed of,  
47 or is made with lead, mercury, or cadmium, a retail mercantile  
48 establishment shall return all inventory of that children's product to

1 the manufacturer, distributor, or importer from which it was  
2 obtained, at the cost of the manufacturer, distributor, or importer.

3  
4 6. Within 60 business days of receiving a children's product  
5 intended for use by a child under the age of 6 that has been recalled  
6 because it contains, is composed of, or is made with lead, mercury,  
7 or cadmium from a retail mercantile establishment, the  
8 manufacturer, distributor, or importer shall destroy the children's  
9 product in such a way that renders it useless, and dispose of the  
10 remnants in a manner and location designed to remove them from  
11 access by the general public.

12  
13 7. a. A person who knowingly violates section 2 of  
14 P.L. , c. (C. ) (pending before the Legislature as this bill)  
15 shall be guilty of an unlawful practice pursuant to P.L.1960, c.39  
16 (C.56:8-1 et seq.).

17 b. A violation of section 5 of P.L. , c. (C. ) (pending  
18 before the Legislature as this bill) shall be an unlawful practice  
19 pursuant to P.L.1960, c.39 (C.56:8-1 et seq.).

20  
21 8. A violation of sections 3 or 6 of P.L. , c. (C. )  
22 (pending before the Legislature as this bill) shall be a crime of the  
23 fourth degree for a first offense, a crime of the third degree for a  
24 second offense, and a crime of the second degree for third or  
25 subsequent offenses.

26  
27 9. This act shall take effect on the first day of the seventh  
28 month following enactment.

29  
30

31 STATEMENT

32

33 This bill would prohibit the sale, distribution, import, or  
34 manufacture any children's product intended for use by a child  
35 under the age of 6 which contains, is composed of, or is made with  
36 lead, mercury, or cadmium.

37 Under the bill, the Director of Consumer Affairs or any  
38 manufacturer, distributor, or importer of children's products, who  
39 discovers that a children's product intended for use by a child under  
40 the age of 6 contains, is composed of, or is made with lead,  
41 mercury, or cadmium, would have to issue an immediate recall for  
42 that product. Within 48 hours of receiving notice of the recall,  
43 retail mercantile establishments would be required to remove the  
44 children's product from displays and make it unavailable for  
45 purchase. Within 14 business days, retail mercantile establishments  
46 would be required to return all inventory of the children's product  
47 to the manufacturer, distributor, or importer from which it was  
48 obtained, at the cost of the manufacturer, distributor, or importer.

1 The manufacturer, distributor, or importer would then have 60  
2 business days to destroy the children's product in such a way that  
3 renders it useless, and to dispose of the remnants in a manner and  
4 location designed to remove them from access by the general  
5 public.

6 The bill specifies the following penalties for violations:

- 7 • knowingly selling, offering for sale, distributing, importing,  
8 or manufacturing a children's product intended for use by a  
9 child under the age of 6 which contains, is composed of, or  
10 is made with lead, mercury, or cadmium would be an  
11 unlawful practice;
- 12 • failing to remove the recalled children's product from  
13 displays, make it unavailable for purchase, or return it to the  
14 manufacturer, distributor, or importer within the required  
15 timeframe would be an unlawful practice; and
- 16 • a manufacturer, distributor, or importer failing to issue an  
17 immediate recall or destroy and dispose of children's  
18 products returned to them as a result of a recall, as required,  
19 would be a crime of the fourth degree for a first offense, a  
20 crime of the third degree for a second offense, and a crime of  
21 the second degree for third or subsequent offenses.

22 An unlawful practice under the Consumer Fraud Act is  
23 punishable by a monetary penalty of not more than \$10,000 for a  
24 first offense and not more than \$20,000 for any subsequent offense.  
25 In addition, a violation can result in cease and desist orders issued  
26 by the Attorney General, the assessment of punitive damages and  
27 the awarding of treble damages and costs to the injured.

28 A crime in the fourth degree is punishable by up to 18 months  
29 imprisonment, a fine of \$10,000, or both. A crime in the third  
30 degree is punishable by three to five years imprisonment, a fine of  
31 \$15,000, or both, and a crime in the second degree is punishable by  
32 five to 10 years imprisonment, a fine of \$150,000, or both.