

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION

No. 135

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED NOVEMBER 12, 2021

Sponsored by:

Senator JOSEPH P. CRYAN

District 20 (Union)

Senator VIN GOPAL

District 11 (Monmouth)

SYNOPSIS

Condemns firearm manufacturers who produce firearms designed to look like toys.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 11/22/2021)

1 **A JOINT RESOLUTION** condemning firearm manufacturers who
2 produce firearms designed to look like toys.
3
4 **WHEREAS**, Firearms are dangerous in the hands of children, as
5 children can unintentionally cause harm to themselves and others
6 while playing with firearms; and
7 **WHEREAS**, Each year, almost 350 children under the age of 18 in the
8 United States mistakenly shoot themselves or someone else; and
9 **WHEREAS**, Children in the United States are killed with firearms at a
10 rate six to nine times higher than in other developed countries; and
11 **WHEREAS**, Although firearm laws are stricter in New Jersey than in
12 other states, New Jersey children are not immune from the effects
13 of firearm violence; and
14 **WHEREAS**, An average of 38 children die from firearm violence in
15 New Jersey annually, making firearm violence the third leading
16 cause of death among children in New Jersey; and
17 **WHEREAS**, Firearms that are not properly secured pose a greater risk
18 to children, especially if the firearm is designed to look like a toy;
19 and
20 **WHEREAS**, Approximately 4.6 million children in the United States
21 live in a home where at least one firearm is loaded and unlocked;
22 and
23 **WHEREAS**, The 4.6 million children who live in homes with unlocked
24 and loaded firearms are at higher risk for unintentionally harming
25 themselves and others with these firearms; and
26 **WHEREAS**, The risk of harm done by children playing with firearms
27 increases even more when the firearms are designed to look like
28 toys; and
29 **WHEREAS**, Firearm manufacturers that design a firearm covered in
30 colorful toy blocks make an already appealing firearm even more
31 enticing to children; and
32 **WHEREAS**, Firearm manufacturers across the United States should be
33 responsible in helping to prevent needless injuries and deaths
34 caused by children playing with and accidentally discharging
35 firearms, by refraining from producing firearms covered in
36 children's toys; and
37 **WHEREAS**, Nationally, firearm violence has increased since 2019,
38 making the protection of children from playing with firearms
39 designed to look like toys even more timely; and
40 **WHEREAS**, Protecting innocent children from accidentally harming
41 themselves or others with a firearm can be enhanced if firearm
42 manufacturers do not produce firearms that children will want to
43 play with; now, therefore,
44
45 **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the*
46 *State of New Jersey.*

SJR135 CRYAN, GOPAL

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1 1. The Governor and the Legislature of the State of New Jersey
2 condemn firearm manufacturers who produce firearms designed to
3 look like toys.

2. Copies of this resolution as filed with the Secretary of State shall be transmitted by the Clerk of the General Assembly or the Secretary of the Senate to the National Shooting Sports Foundation.

9 3. This joint resolution shall take effect immediately.

STATEMENT

14 This joint resolution condemns firearm manufacturers who
15 produce firearms designed to look like toys.

In the United States, children and those around them are injured and killed too often because of unintentional firearm violence caused by children playing with firearms. A child in the United States has a six to nine time higher risk of being killed with a firearm than in other developed countries around the globe. Firearm manufacturers producing firearms that look like toys would only exacerbate the existing problem. Designing a firearm to be even more appealing to children than it already is would be grossly irresponsible.

Children are naturally curious, so it is important that adults protect them by not producing firearms that appear exciting, as it could possibly entice them to handle household firearms. Building a firearm with modifications such as attaching colorful toy blocks to the outside, would make an already curious child even more intrigued. Firearm manufacturers across the United States should recognize this and take responsibility in helping to protect the youth of America by not producing these firearms.

The time to act on this issue is now, as firearm violence has increased since 2019, putting children at higher risk. This resolution is not about restricting the rights of firearm manufacturers to design firearms the way they want, but rather is about protecting innocent children who may fall victim to a powerful firearm disguised as a toy.