

**SENATE, No. 2837**

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

INTRODUCED JUNE 21, 2007

**Sponsored by:**  
**Senator LORETTA WEINBERG**  
**District 37 (Bergen)**

**SYNOPSIS**

Prohibits sale of certain bicycles with quick release wheels.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



1 AN ACT prohibiting the sale of certain bicycles with quick release  
2 wheels and supplementing P.L.1960, c.39 (C.56:8-1 et seq.).

3

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

6

7 1. The Legislature hereby finds and declares that:

8 Children riding bicycles with quick release wheels have been  
9 involved in over 100 accidents;

10 Many of the children involved in these accidents have suffered  
11 injuries, including permanent scarring, disfigurement, major bone  
12 and dental trauma, severe scraping and bruising, brain injury, and  
13 ruptured internal organs;

14 The danger to children caused by bicycles with quick release  
15 wheels is unacceptable in light of the fact that safer alternatives  
16 exist; and

17 Furthermore, advances in quick release technology make it right  
18 and proper that the new mechanisms—which are less prone to  
19 assembler and user error—be used in place of the old.

20 It is, therefore, altogether fitting and proper that the State  
21 regulate the sale of bicycles with quick release wheels to stem the  
22 rash of senseless injuries to children resulting from their use.

23

24 2. a. It shall be an unlawful practice for any person to sell a  
25 bicycle with a front wheel diameter of 20 inches or less, which is  
26 equipped with a quick release wheel, exclusive of specialty adult  
27 bicycles.

28 b. For the purposes of P.L. , c. (C. ) (pending before the  
29 Legislature as this bill):

30 (1) "quick release wheel" means any bicycle front wheel which  
31 does not require the use of any tools for wheel removal;

32 (2) "primary retention device" means a device that keeps the  
33 bicycle wheel connected to the bicycle for riding; and

34 (3) "secondary retention device" means a device that retains the  
35 bicycle wheel in the bicycle fork when the primary retention device  
36 is disengaged.

37 c. (1) It shall be an unlawful practice for any person to sell a  
38 bicycle which is equipped with a quick release wheel if:

39 (a) the front wheel diameter is greater than 20 inches; or

40 (b) it is a specialty adult bicycle with a front wheel diameter of  
41 20 inches or less.

42 (2) The sale of a bicycle which meets the following conditions  
43 shall not be considered an unlawful practice under paragraph (1) of  
44 this subsection:

45 (a) The quick release wheel is equipped with both a primary and  
46 a secondary retention device; and

47 (b) The secondary retention device conforms to the following  
48 performance specifications:

- 1 (i) The secondary retention device activates automatically when  
2 the wheel is placed in the fork dropouts;
- 3 (ii) The secondary retention device does not disengage for wheel  
4 removal unless it is actively held in the disengaged position by the  
5 user during wheel removal;
- 6 (iii) The secondary retention device, regardless of the method of  
7 manual operation by the user, always prevents wheel separation  
8 while the bicycle is ridden; and
- 9 (iv) During all states of fastening and unfastening of the primary  
10 retention device, the secondary retention device, in a hands-off  
11 condition, does not allow the wheel to separate from the fork.

12  
13 3. This act shall take effect on the first day of the third month  
14 after enactment.

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17 STATEMENT

18  
19 This bill would make it an unlawful practice for any person to  
20 sell certain bicycles equipped with quick release wheels. The bill  
21 defines "quick release wheel" as any bicycle front wheel which does  
22 not require the use of any tools for wheel removal.

23 Under the bill, it would be an unlawful practice to sell any  
24 bicycle equipped with a quick release wheel if it has a front wheel  
25 diameter of 20 inches or less and is not a specialty adult bicycle.  
26 Further, the bill would make the sale of any other type of bicycle,  
27 including specialty adult bicycles with a front wheel diameter of 20  
28 inches or less, equipped with a quick release wheel an unlawful  
29 practice, unless:

- 30 • the bicycle is equipped with both, a primary and secondary  
31 retention device, and
- 32 • the secondary retention device meets certain standards designed  
33 to prevent the accidental separation of the wheel from the  
34 bicycle fork.

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