

ASSEMBLY, No. 831

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2020 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman VERLINA REYNOLDS-JACKSON

District 15 (Hunterdon and Mercer)

Assemblywoman ANNETTE CHAPARRO

District 33 (Hudson)

Assemblyman PAUL D. MORIARTY

District 4 (Camden and Gloucester)

Co-Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman Vainieri Huttie and Assemblyman Mukherji

SYNOPSIS

Prohibits sale of infant walkers.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



1 infant walkers, and the American Academy of Pediatrics has called
2 for a ban on the sale and use of infant walkers.

3 Publicity about the dangers of infant walkers caused a reduction
4 in their use and voluntary implementation of increased safety
5 standards by manufacturers. As a result, there was a substantial
6 decrease in injuries to babies, from approximately 20,650 injuries in
7 1990 to 3,201 injuries in 2003. In 2010, the United States
8 Consumer Product Safety Commission strengthened safety
9 requirements on the manufacturing and testing of infant walkers.
10 Following implementation of these requirements, injuries dropped
11 an additional 23 percent. A recent study, however, found there are
12 still approximately 2,000 children being treated for infant walker-
13 related injuries each year.

14 This bill prohibits a person from selling or offering for sale an
15 infant walker in this State. The term “infant walker” is defined
16 under the bill to mean a device used to assist a baby with mobility
17 before the baby is walking and refers to a mobile unit with wheels
18 or casters on the bottom that enables a baby to move on a horizontal
19 surface when propelled by the baby sitting or standing within the
20 walker, but does not include a stroller, carriage, crib, high chair, or
21 bassinet.

22 A person who violates the provisions of the bill is subject to a
23 civil penalty of not more than \$10,000 for the first offense, and not
24 more than \$20,000 for the second and each subsequent offense.
25 The liability for this civil penalty would be in addition to any
26 liability for civil damages for an injury to a plaintiff in a civil action
27 resulting from the sale or offering for sale of an infant walker. The
28 civil penalty prescribed by the bill is to be collected and enforced
29 by the Director of the Division of Consumer Affairs in the
30 Department of Law and Public Safety by summary proceedings
31 under the “Penalty Enforcement Law of 1999,” P.L.1999, c.274
32 (C.2A:58-10 et seq.).

33 Additionally, a law enforcement officer may confiscate an infant
34 walker that is sold or offered for sale in violation of the bill.

35 Finally, the bill provides that nothing in the bill is to be
36 construed to impose liability on any news media that accept or
37 publish advertising that may otherwise be subject to the provisions
38 of the bill.