

ASSEMBLY, No. 2389

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

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Sponsored by:

Assemblyman BENJIE E. WIMBERLY

District 35 (Bergen and Passaic)

SYNOPSIS

Clarifies and codifies certain inflatable ride safety requirements.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 AN ACT concerning inflatable carnival-amusement rides and
2 supplementing P.L.1975, c.105 (C.5:3-31 et seq.).

3

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

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7 1. As used in this act:

8 “Hazardous weather” means a thunderstorm, gusting or sustained
9 wind, rain, or any other hazardous weather condition.

10 “Inflatable ride” or “ride” means an air-supported inflatable
11 structure that incorporates a structural and mechanical system,
12 employs a high strength fabric or film that achieves its strength,
13 shape, and stability by tensioning from internal air pressure, and is
14 intended for riders to bounce, ride, slide, or be supported after
15 entering or mounting it.

16 “Manual” means a manual, instruction book, guidance, or other
17 design and operation document prepared by the manufacturer of an
18 inflatable ride.

19 “Operator” means the operator of an inflatable ride.

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21 2. Every inflatable ride shall have an identification and data
22 plate attached, glued, or sewn to it. The identification and data plate
23 shall include the following information:

- 24 a. the manufacturer’s name and address;
25 b. the date of manufacture;
26 c. the ride name and ride serial number;
27 d. rider capacity, by weight and number;
28 e. cubic feet per minute required to properly inflate the ride
29 and the type of blower to be used; and
30 f. any other requirements as determined by the Commissioner
31 of Community Affairs.

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33 3. An inflatable ride manufacturer shall proscribe the
34 requirements related to the ride’s operation, maintenance, and set-
35 up in a manual provided to an operator. The manual shall contain
36 illustrations and clear, detailed instructions for setting up and safely
37 operating an inflatable ride, including tie-down and anchorage
38 requirements. A manufacturer also shall indicate in the manual safe
39 operation and usage requirements for each inflatable ride, including
40 information on avoidance of imminent danger, rider conduct, and
41 cleanliness.

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43 4. a. A manufacturer shall include one set of ground anchors
44 with each inflatable ride. The size and number of anchorage points
45 shall be adequate for the structure and take into account live and
46 wind loads.

47 b. An operator shall perform a thorough check of the inflatable
48 ride and its accessories to ensure that all anchor points, anchor

1 ropes, and anchor stakes or ballasts are undamaged and suitable
2 before use.

3 c. An operator shall ensure that all tie-down ropes attached to
4 the inflatable ride are fastened to a stake or anchorage. An operator
5 shall replace any rope that becomes detached from the structure
6 with ropes of at least equivalent breaking strength, and attached
7 with equivalent or greater attachment strength.

8 An operator shall use anchors that are straight stakes, screw
9 stakes, ground weights, or sandbag ground anchors, and shall not
10 use any anchor that is not specifically described within the manual.
11 An operator may use substitutions if allowed and as indicated in the
12 manual. An operator shall ensure that anchors are protected to
13 prevent any public hazard.

14 An operator shall use stakes or ballast at every anchorage point,
15 which shall be installed pursuant to manufacturer requirements. An
16 operator shall use stakes with restraining hooks or collars at the top
17 to prevent the attached rope from sliding up and releasing. Ground
18 stakes shall be a minimum of 40 inches long for slides 15 feet or
19 higher.

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21 5. a. An operator shall evacuate all riders and deflate the
22 inflatable ride in the event of any approaching hazardous weather
23 related condition. After the weather condition passes, the operator
24 shall dry the inflatable ride of rainwater, and re-inflate and re-
25 inspect the inflatable ride. Riders shall be readmitted only when the
26 inflatable ride is deemed safe to operate.

27 b. An operator shall not operate an inflatable ride if the wind
28 velocity exceeds the manufacturer's recommended maximum safe
29 operating wind speed.

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31 6. The Commissioner of Community Affairs shall adopt rules
32 and regulations, including requirements related to inspection and
33 testing of inflatable rides, pursuant to the "Administrative
34 Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.) to effectuate
35 the purposes of this act.

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37 7. This act shall take effect immediately.

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40 STATEMENT

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42 This bill would codify certain safety requirements related to
43 inflatable rides, regulated by the Department of Community Affairs
44 pursuant to the "Carnival-Amusement Rides Safety Act" and
45 regulations at N.J.A.C.5:14A-13.1 et seq.

46 Under the bill, an inflatable ride manufacturer is to create a
47 manual on operation, maintenance, and set-up of the inflatable ride,
48 which would include illustrations and detailed instructions in

1 addition to specific tie-down and anchorage requirements. A
2 manufacturer would be required to indicate safe operation and
3 usage requirements for each inflatable ride, including avoidance of
4 imminent danger, rider conduct, and cleanliness.

5 The bill requires every inflatable ride to have an identification
6 and data plate attached, glued, or sewn to it. The identification and
7 data plate are to include: the manufacturer's name and address; date
8 of manufacture; ride name and serial number; rider capacity, by
9 weight and number; cubic feet per minute required to properly
10 inflate the ride and type of blower to be used; and any other
11 requirements as determined by the Commissioner of Community
12 Affairs.

13 The bill requires an operator to perform a thorough check of the
14 inflatable ride and its accessories to ensure that all anchor points,
15 anchor ropes, and anchor stakes or ballasts are undamaged and
16 suitable before use. The bill additionally requires that:

- 17 • Each inflatable ride include one set of ground anchors.
- 18 • The size and number of anchorage points are to be adequate
19 for the structure, and take into account live and wind loads.
- 20 • All tie-down ropes attached to the inflatable ride are to be
21 fastened to a stake or anchorage.
- 22 • Anchors are to be protected to prevent any public hazard.
- 23 • Stakes or ballast are to be used at every anchorage point and
24 be installed according to manufacturer requirements.

25 In the event of any approaching hazardous weather related
26 condition, the bill requires that an operator evacuate riders and
27 deflate the inflatable ride. After the weather condition passes, the
28 operator is to dry, re-inflate, and re-inspect the inflatable ride and
29 only re-open it when deemed safe. The bill prohibits an inflatable
30 ride from being used if the wind velocity exceeds the
31 manufacturer's maximum safe operating wind speed.