

110TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 4266

To direct the Consumer Product Safety Commission to issue regulations concerning the safety and labeling of certain furniture.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DECEMBER 4, 2007

Ms. SCHWARTZ (for herself and Mr. McGOVERN) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

A BILL

To direct the Consumer Product Safety Commission to issue regulations concerning the safety and labeling of certain furniture.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-
2 tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

4 This Act may be cited as the “Katie Elise and
5 Meghan Agnes Act”.

6 SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

7 Congress finds the following:

8 (1) An estimated 8,000 to 10,000 victims are
9 treated annually in hospital emergency rooms in the
10 United States for injuries associated with the tip-

1 ping over of furniture or appliances, and more than
2 100 deaths have been reported since 2000. Approximate-
3 ly 80 percent of the injuries were incurred by
4 children under age 5.

5 (2) These injuries and deaths frequently occur
6 when children climb onto, fall against, or pull them-
7 selves up on such items as shelves, bookcases, dress-
8 ers, bureaus, desks, chests, television stands, and
9 television sets.

10 (3) ASTM International, a voluntary consensus
11 standards organization, has issued a voluntary
12 standard to prevent furniture tipping accidents.
13 However, many furniture manufacturers do not
14 abide by the voluntary standard.

15 (4) Glass tables without safety glass injure
16 more than 15,000 people a year.

17 (5) The European Union requires that glass
18 table tops be made of safety glass, and the Con-
19 sumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) has
20 issued standards for the use of safety glass in doors,
21 storm doors, bathtub doors, shower doors, and slid-
22 ing glass doors, but not in tables and other fur-
23 niture.

24 (6) The issuance of mandatory safety standards
25 to prevent accidents related to furniture tipover and

1 glass furniture would greatly reduce the risk of inju-
2 ries associated with these products.

3 **SEC. 3. FURNITURE TIPPING SAFETY STANDARDS.**

4 (a) RULEMAKING; APPLICABLE FURNITURE.—Not
5 later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this
6 Act, the Consumer Product Safety Commission (in this
7 Act referred to as the “Commission”) shall promulgate
8 final consumer product safety standards under section
9 7(a) of the Consumer Product Safety Act (15 U.S.C.
10 2056(a)) applicable to any furniture that the Commission
11 determines poses a substantial safety hazard due to tip-
12 ping because of its design, height, weight, stability, or
13 other features.

14 (b) SAFETY STANDARDS.—At a minimum, the stand-
15 ards prescribed under subsection (a) shall be substantially
16 the same as the January 22, 2007 proposed revision to
17 standard ASTM F2057–06 or any successor standard
18 thereto issued by ASTM International, which requires ap-
19 plicable furniture to withstand pressure of 50 pounds and
20 be equipped with anchoring devices capable of with-
21 standing 100 pounds of force.

22 **SEC. 4. GLASS FURNITURE SAFETY STANDARDS.**

23 (a) RULEMAKING.—Not later than 180 days after the
24 date of enactment of the Act, the Commission shall pro-
25 mulgate final consumer product safety standards under

1 section 7(a) of the Consumer Product Safety Act (15
2 U.S.C. 2058), to require that, in any furniture containing
3 a glass surface or pane of a size the Commission deter-
4 mines may pose a safety hazard to consumers upon break-
5 ing, the glass contained therein be safety glass.

6 (b) SAFETY GLASS DEFINED.—For purposes of the
7 safety standard required under this section, the term
8 “safety glass” means reinforced glass that has been lami-
9 nated or tempered to increase its strength or to cause it
10 to hold together or break into small, less dangerous pieces
11 when broken.

12 **SEC. 5. REPORT ON FURNITURE SAFETY.**

13 Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment
14 of this Act, the Commission shall transmit to the Com-
15 mittee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Rep-
16 resentatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science,
17 and Transportation of the Senate a report on—

18 (1) the degree of industry compliance with the
19 standards prescribed under sections 3 and 4;
20 (2) any enforcement actions brought by the
21 Commission to enforce such standards; and
22 (3) reports of incidents involving children and
23 furniture, including both furniture that is and is not

1 in compliance with the standards prescribed under
2 sections 3 and 4.

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