

111TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 4767

To amend the Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act to exempt ordinary books and paper-based printed material from the lead limit in such Act.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 4, 2010

Mr. FORTENBERRY (for himself and Mr. SHULER) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

A BILL

To amend the Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act to exempt ordinary books and paper-based printed material from the lead limit in such Act.

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. FINDINGS.**

4 Congress finds that—

5 (1) the Consumer Product Safety Improvement
6 Act of 2008 (CPSIA) sought to protect children
7 from the dangers associated with products con-
8 taining unreasonable levels of lead, by imposing lead
9 standards and testing requirements;

1 (2) the Consumer Product Safety Commission
2 has interpreted the Act to apply to all children’s
3 books and other printed materials;

4 (3) the Act was not intended to apply to ordi-
5 nary books and paper-based materials—those books
6 and materials that are published on paper or card-
7 board and printed by conventional publishing meth-
8 ods;

9 (4) comprehensive testing of finished books and
10 their component materials that are used for printed
11 material has found total lead content at levels con-
12 sidered non-detectable, or 10 ppm, well below the
13 thresholds in CPSIA;

14 (5) the book and printed material manufac-
15 turing process is now standardized across the United
16 States and much of the world;

17 (6) the publishers and printers in the United
18 States as well as much of the world do not use lead-
19 based chemicals or other materials in the manufac-
20 turing of ordinary books and paper-based printed
21 material, meeting standards promulgated by the Co-
22 alition of Northeastern Governors;

23 (7) the Centers for Disease Control and Preven-
24 tion have determined there is minimal risk to chil-
25 dren from trace amounts of lead in ordinary books

1 and printed products produced by the same proc-
 2 esses using the same component materials; and

3 (8) reading books and using other printed ma-
 4 terial is critical to child development and education
 5 and schools and libraries operating under limited
 6 budgets provide millions of children with free access
 7 to ordinary books, and yet despite the lack of evi-
 8 dence that their books contain harmful levels of lead,
 9 libraries and other organizations may have to re-
 10 strict access to children’s books due to the burdens
 11 and uncertainties associated with CPSIA’s new lead
 12 levels and testing requirements.

13 **SEC. 2. EXEMPTION FOR ORDINARY BOOKS AND PRINTED**
 14 **MATERIALS.**

15 Section 101 of the Consumer Product Safety Im-
 16 provement Act (15 U.S.C. 1278a) is amended by adding
 17 at the end the following:

18 “(h) EXCLUSION FOR ORDINARY BOOKS AND PAPER-
 19 BASED PRINTED MATERIALS.—

20 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The limits established
 21 under subsection (a) shall not apply to ordinary
 22 books or paper-based printed materials.

23 “(2) DEFINITIONS.—As used in this sub-
 24 section—

1 “(A) the term ‘ordinary books’ means
2 books printed on paper or cardboard, printed
3 with inks or toners and bound and finished
4 using a conventional method, which are in-
5 tended to be read or have educational value;
6 and

7 “(B) the term ‘ordinary paper-based mate-
8 rials’ means materials printed on paper or card-
9 board, such as magazines, posters, greeting
10 cards, and similar products that are printed
11 with inks or toners and bound and finished
12 using a conventional method.

13 Such terms do not include books or printed mate-
14 rials that are printed on material other than paper
15 or cardboard or contain non-paper based compo-
16 nents such as metal or plastic parts or accessories
17 that are not part of the binding and finishing mate-
18 rials used in a conventional method.”.

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