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I N   S E N A T E

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Introduced by Sens. HUNTLEY, LANZA -- read twice and ordered printed,  
and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Consumer  
Protection

AN ACT to amend the general business law, in relation to requiring that  
manufacturers and sellers of certain consumer products place a tipping  
warning on such products

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, REPRESENTED IN SENATE AND ASSEM-  
BLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

1     Section 1. The general business law is amended by adding a new section  
2     399-j to read as follows:  
3     S 399-J. REQUIRED TIPPING WARNING. 1. AS USED IN THIS SECTION, THE  
4     FOLLOWING TERMS SHALL HAVE THE FOLLOWING MEANINGS:  
5         (A) "COVERED CONSUMER PRODUCT" MEANS ANY:  
6         (1) DRESSER, BOOKCASE, BUREAU, ARMOIRE, OR SIMILAR FURNITURE DESIGNED  
7     TO STORE, DISPLAY, OR OTHERWISE PLACE ITEMS, THAT IS FORTY-TWO INCHES OR  
8     MORE IN HEIGHT;  
9         (2) TELEVISION WITH A DISPLAY SCREEN THAT IS NINETEEN INCHES OR MORE  
10    IN LENGTH;  
11         (3) TELEVISION STAND; AND  
12         (4) SUCH OTHER CONSUMER PRODUCT AS THE CONSUMER PROTECTION BOARD  
13    CONSIDERS APPROPRIATE FOR ACHIEVING THE PURPOSE OF THIS SECTION.  
14         (B) "TIPPING WARNING" MEANS A LABEL, HANGTAG, SHIELD OR PLATE WHICH IS  
15    CLEARLY VISIBLE TO THE CONSUMER CONTAINING A NOTICE REGARDING THE  
16    TIPPING DANGER CERTAIN CONSUMER PRODUCTS POSE TO CHILDREN AND THE EXIST-  
17    ENCE OF SEPARATELY AVAILABLE DEVICES DESIGNED TO ANCHOR, STABILIZE, OR  
18    OTHERWISE REDUCE OR PREVENT PRODUCT TIPPING AND ACCIDENTAL INJURY OR  
19    DEATH, PARTICULARLY WITH RESPECT TO YOUNG CHILDREN, AS PRESCRIBED BY THE  
20    EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE CONSUMER PROTECTION BOARD, IN CLEAR AND  
21    CONSPICUOUS TYPE.  
22    2. (A) NO PERSON, FIRM, CORPORATION, OR OTHER LEGAL ENTITY WHICH MANU-  
23    FACTURES OR ASSEMBLES COVERED CONSUMER PRODUCTS SHALL MANUFACTURE,  
24    ASSEMBLE, SELL, OFFER TO SELL, OR DISTRIBUTE IN THIS STATE SUCH COVERED  
25    CONSUMER PRODUCTS UNLESS SUCH PERSON, FIRM, CORPORATION OR OTHER LEGAL  
26    ENTITY WHICH MANUFACTURES OR ASSEMBLES SUCH COVERED CONSUMER PRODUCTS

EXPLANATION--Matter in *ITALICS* (underscored) is new; matter in brackets  
[ ] is old law to be omitted.

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1 CLEARLY AND CONSPICUOUSLY AFFIXES TO THE COVERED CONSUMER PRODUCT OR THE  
2 OUTSIDE OF THE PACKAGING IN WHICH SUCH COVERED CONSUMER PRODUCT IS SOLD  
3 OR OFFERED FOR SALE WITH A TIPPING WARNING.

4 (B) NO PERSON, FIRM, CORPORATION OR OTHER LEGAL ENTITY WHICH IS REGU-  
5 LARLY ENGAGED IN THE BUSINESS OF SELLING, OFFERING FOR SALE, OR DISTRIB-  
6 UTING COVERED CONSUMER PRODUCTS AT RETAIL FOR CONSUMER USE, SHALL SELL,  
7 OFFER TO SELL, OR DISTRIBUTE IN THIS STATE SUCH PRODUCTS UNLESS SUCH  
8 PRODUCTS CONFORM TO THE REQUIREMENT SET FORTH IN PARAGRAPH (A) OF THIS  
9 SUBDIVISION.

10 3. (A) WHENEVER THERE SHALL BE A VIOLATION OF THIS SECTION, AN APPLI-  
11 CATION MAY BE MADE BY THE ATTORNEY GENERAL IN THE NAME OF THE PEOPLE OF  
12 THE STATE OF NEW YORK TO A COURT OR JUSTICE HAVING JURISDICTION BY A  
13 SPECIAL PROCEEDING TO ISSUE AN INJUNCTION, AND UPON NOTICE TO THE  
14 DEFENDANT OF NOT LESS THAN FIVE DAYS, TO ENJOIN AND RESTRAIN THE CONTIN-  
15 UANCE OF SUCH VIOLATION; AND IF IT SHALL APPEAR TO THE SATISFACTION OF  
16 THE COURT OR JUSTICE THAT THE DEFENDANT HAS, IN FACT, VIOLATED THIS  
17 ARTICLE, AN INJUNCTION MAY BE ISSUED BY SUCH COURT OR JUSTICE, ENJOINING  
18 AND RESTRAINING ANY FURTHER VIOLATION, WITHOUT REQUIRING PROOF THAT ANY  
19 PERSON HAS, IN FACT, BEEN INJURED OR DAMAGED THEREBY. WHENEVER THE COURT  
20 SHALL DETERMINE THAT A VIOLATION OF THIS ARTICLE HAS OCCURRED, THE COURT  
21 MAY IMPOSE A CIVIL PENALTY OF NOT MORE THAN TWO HUNDRED FIFTY DOLLARS  
22 FOR A FIRST VIOLATION AND NOT MORE THAN FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS FOR EACH  
23 SUBSEQUENT VIOLATION. IN CONNECTION WITH ANY SUCH PROPOSED APPLICATION,  
24 THE ATTORNEY GENERAL IS AUTHORIZED TO TAKE PROOF AND MAKE A DETERMI-  
25 NATION OF THE RELEVANT FACTS AND TO ISSUE SUBPOENAS IN ACCORDANCE WITH  
26 THE CIVIL PRACTICE LAW AND RULES.

27 (B) NO PERSON, FIRM, CORPORATION OR OTHER LEGAL ENTITY WHICH IS REGU-  
28 LARLY ENGAGED IN THE BUSINESS OF MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTING, SELLING,  
29 OR OFFERING FOR SALE COVERED CONSUMER PRODUCTS SHALL BE DEEMED TO HAVE  
30 VIOLATED THE PROVISIONS OF THIS SUBDIVISION, IF SUCH PERSON, FIRM,  
31 CORPORATION OR OTHER LEGAL ENTITY SHOWS BY A PREPONDERANCE OF EVIDENCE  
32 THAT THE VIOLATION WAS NOT INTENTIONAL AND RESULTED FROM A BONA FIDE  
33 ERROR MADE NOTWITHSTANDING THE MAINTENANCE OF PROCEDURES REASONABLY  
34 ADOPTED TO AVOID ANY SUCH ERROR.

35 4. THIS SECTION SHALL NOT APPLY TO THE SALE OF COVERED CONSUMER  
36 PRODUCTS SOLD OR OFFERED FOR SALE BY CONSUMERS FOR CONSUMER USE.

37 S 2. This act shall take effect on the one hundred twentieth day after  
38 it shall have become a law, provided that the executive director of the  
39 state consumer protection board is immediately authorized and directed  
40 to promulgate, amend and/or repeal any rules and regulations necessary  
41 to implement the provisions of this act on its effective date.