

STATE OF NEW YORK

6041

2019-2020 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

February 26, 2019

Introduced by M. of A. RYAN -- read once and referred to the Committee on Environmental Conservation

AN ACT to amend the environmental conservation law, in relation to jewelry containing lead

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

1 Section 1. Legislative findings. The legislature hereby finds that
2 stringent controls on the amount of lead in jewelry are necessary to
3 protect public health, especially the health of children. Random
4 samples of jewelry in New York state have been found to contain up to
5 60,000 parts per million of lead. To assure consistent application of
6 these controls to all jewelry, specific technical standards and controls
7 must be specified.

8 § 2. The environmental conservation law is amended by adding a new
9 section 37-0115 to read as follows:

10 § 37-0115. Lead-containing jewelry.

11 For purposes of this section, the following terms shall have the
12 following definitions:

13 1. "Body piercing jewelry" means any part of jewelry that is manufac-
14 tured or sold for placement in a new piercing or a mucous membrane, but
15 does not include any part of that jewelry that is not placed within a
16 new piercing or a mucous membrane.

17 2. "Children" means children under the age of twelve.

18 3. "Children's jewelry" means jewelry that is made for, marketed for
19 use by, or marketed to, children and includes jewelry that meets any of
20 the following conditions:

21 (a) Represented in its packaging, display, or advertising, as appro-
22 priate for use by children.

23 (b) Sold in conjunction with, attached to, or packaged together with
24 other products that are packaged, displayed, or advertised as appropri-
25 ate for use by children.

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

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1 (c) Sized for children and not intended for use by adults.

2 (d) Sold in any of the following:

3 (1) A vending machine.

4 (2) Retail store, catalogue, or online web site, in which a person
5 exclusively offers for sale products that are packaged, displayed, or
6 advertised as appropriate for use by children.

7 (3) A discrete portion of a retail store, catalogue, or online web
8 site, in which a person offers for sale products that are packaged,
9 displayed, or advertised as appropriate for use by children.

10 4. "Jewelry" means any of the following ornaments worn by a person:

11 (a) ankle bracelet;

12 (b) arm cuff;

13 (c) bracelet;

14 (d) brooch;

15 (e) chain;

16 (f) crown;

17 (g) cuff link;

18 (h) hair accessory;

19 (i) earring;

20 (j) necklace;

21 (k) decorative pin;

22 (l) ring;

23 (m) body piercing jewelry;

24 (n) jewelry placed in the mouth for display or ornament;

25 (o) any charm, bead, chain, link, pendant, or other component of the
26 items listed in this definition;

27 (p) a charm, bead, chain, link, pendant, or other attachment to shoes
28 or clothing that can be removed and may be used as a component of an
29 item listed in this definition;

30 (q) a watch in which a timepiece is a component of an item listed in
31 this definition, excluding the timepiece itself if the timepiece can be
32 removed from the ornament.

33 5. Effective January first, two thousand twenty-one, no manufacturer
34 shall sell, or offer for sale, children's jewelry that contain a total
35 lead content in any component part of the item that is more than 0.004%
36 (40 parts per million) but less than 0.06% (600 parts per million) by
37 total weight or a lower standard for lead content as may be established
38 by federal or state law or rule unless that item bears a warning state-
39 ment that indicates that at least one component part of the item
40 contains lead.

41 The warning statement for children's jewelry shall contain at least
42 the following: "WARNING: CONTAINS LEAD. MAY BE HARMFUL IF EATEN OR
43 CHEWED. COMPLIES WITH FEDERAL STANDARDS."

44 A manufacturer is in compliance if the warning statement is provided
45 on the children's jewelry or on the label on the immediate container of
46 the children's jewelry.

47 The warning statement requirement does not apply to any children's
48 jewelry:

49 (a) for which federal law governs warning in a manner that preempts
50 state authority;

51 (b) if the component parts of the children's jewelry containing lead
52 are inaccessible to a child through normal and reasonably foreseeable
53 use and abuse as defined by the United States Consumer Product Safety
54 Commission;

1 (c) if the component parts in question are exempt from third-party
2 testing as determined by the United States Consumer Product Safety
3 Commission; or

4 (d) to children's jewelry resold or offered for resale, or distributed
5 by consumers for consumer use.

6 § 3. The environmental conservation law is amended by adding a new
7 section 71-3705 to read as follows:

8 § 71-3705. Enforcement of section 37-0115.

9 1. Any person who violates any provision of or fails to perform any
10 duty imposed by section 37-0115 of this chapter shall upon the first
11 finding of such a violation be liable for a civil penalty not to exceed
12 five hundred dollars for each violation. Any person convicted of a
13 second or subsequent violation shall be liable for a civil penalty not
14 to exceed twenty-five hundred dollars for each violation.

15 2. Penalties under this section shall be assessed by the commissioner
16 after a hearing pursuant to the provisions of section 71-1709 of this
17 article. In assessing the penalty under this section, the commissioner
18 shall consider: the nature and extent of the violation; the number and
19 severity of the violations; the economic effect of the penalty on the
20 violation; whether the violator took good faith measures to comply with
21 this chapter; the willfulness of the violator's misconduct; the deter-
22 rent effect that the imposition of the penalty would have on both the
23 violation and the regulated community as a whole; and other factors that
24 the commissioner deems appropriate and relevant. Any person found to
25 have violated section 37-0115 of this chapter may be enjoined from
26 continuing such violation.

27 3. All civil penalties and fines collected for any violation of
28 section 37-0115 of this chapter shall be paid over to the commissioner
29 for deposit in the environmental protection fund established by section
30 ninety-two-s of the state finance law.

31 § 4. This act shall take effect immediately.