

112TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 272

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

JANUARY 12, 2011

Mr. FORTENBERRY 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 the following:

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 nondetectable, 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 Pre-
24 vention have determined there is minimal risk to
25 children from trace amounts of lead in ordinary

1 books and printed products produced by the same
2 processes using the same component materials.

3 (8) Reading books and using other printed ma-
4 terial are critical to child development, and edu-
5 cation and schools and libraries operating under lim-
6 ited budgets provide millions of children with free
7 access to ordinary books, and yet despite the lack of
8 evidence that their books contain harmful levels of
9 lead, libraries and other organizations may have to
10 restrict access to children’s books due to the burdens
11 and uncertainties associated with CPSLA’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 ordinary 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 that are intended
5 to be read or have educational value; and

6 “(B) the term ‘ordinary paper-based print-
7 ed materials’ means materials printed on paper
8 or cardboard, such as magazines, posters, greet-
9 ing cards, and similar products, that are print-
10 ed with inks or toners and bound and finished
11 using a conventional method.

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

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