



AB 282 – Corded Window Coverings

SUMMARY

This bill will protect children from the preventable strangulation hazard posed by cords on window coverings.

BACKGROUND

Window coverings comprise a wide range of products, including shades, blinds, curtains, and draperies. Both blinds and shades may have inner cords that change the position of the window covering to achieve a desired level of light control. Curtains do not contain inner cords but may be operated by a continuous loop cord or beaded chain.

Certain window covering cords may present an unreasonable risk of injury, specifically strangulation, to young children. The United States Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) is aware of 184 reported fatal strangulations and 101 reported nonfatal strangulations from 1996 through 2012 involving window covering cords among children 8 years and younger. The CPSC identified window coverings as one of the top five hidden home hazards in the country.

For almost 20 years, the voluntary standard published by the American National Standards Institute and Window Covering Manufacturers Association to mitigate the dangers of accessible operating cords has failed to eliminate or significantly reduce the hazards posed by these products.. Furthermore, for more than a decade, manufacturers have been producing products that eliminate accessible, hazardous cords, and designs that render window covering pull cords inaccessible.

Despite their availability, safe window coverings are not widely used by consumers, because they are more expensive than corded window coverings. Due to the high risk of injury to children, failure of the voluntary

standard to address cord hazards, and products and technology in the marketplace that can reduce the risks caused by corded window coverings, it is necessary to prohibit hazardous accessible operating cords on these products.

THIS BILL

AB 282 will prohibit the sale of corded window coverings in California. If there are accessible cords that cannot be eliminated, due to the large size of the product or other reasons, the product can be sold if the cords are made inaccessible through effective passive guarding devices. This bill will also require licensed child care facilities serving children under six years of age to replace all corded window coverings or make accessible cords inaccessible through the use of an effective passive guarding device.

SUPPORT

- Consumer Federation of America (Sponsor)
- California Public Interest Research Group
- Consumer Action
- Consumer Federation of California
- Consumers Union
- Independent Safety Consulting
- Kids in Danger
- Parents for Window Blind Safety

OPPOSITION

- Window Covering Manufacturers Association

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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