

**ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE**  
**HOUSE HEALTH, EDUCATION AND SOCIAL SERVICES STANDING COMMITTEE**

April 8, 2008

3:03 p.m.

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Representative Peggy Wilson, Chair  
Representative Bob Roses, Vice Chair  
Representative Anna Fairclough  
Representative Sharon Cissna  
Representative Berta Gardner

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

Representative Wes Keller  
Representative Paul Seaton

**COMMITTEE CALENDAR**

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 18

Requesting the President of the United States to direct the United States Consumer Product Safety Commission to test the materials used in children's toys and other children's products for toxicity and to make the results publicly available.

- MOVED SJR 18 OUT OF COMMITTEE

**PREVIOUS COMMITTEE ACTION**

BILL: SJR 18

SHORT TITLE: CHILD PRODUCT SAFETY

SPONSOR(S): SENATOR(S) WIELECHOWSKI

02/19/08	(S)	READ THE FIRST TIME - REFERRALS
02/19/08	(S)	HES, L&C
03/14/08	(S)	HES AT 1:30 PM BUTROVICH 205
03/14/08	(S)	Heard & Held
03/14/08	(S)	MINUTE(HES)
03/19/08	(S)	HES AT 1:45 PM BUTROVICH 205
03/19/08	(S)	Moved SJR 18 Out of Committee
03/19/08	(S)	MINUTE(HES)
03/21/08	(S)	HES RPT 5DP
03/21/08	(S)	DP: DAVIS, ELTON, THOMAS, COWDERY, DYSON
03/25/08	(S)	L&C AT 1:30 PM BELTZ 211
03/25/08	(S)	Heard & Held
03/25/08	(S)	MINUTE(L&C)

03/27/08 (S) L&C AT 1:30 PM BELTZ 211  
03/27/08 (S) Moved SJR 18 Out of Committee  
03/27/08 (S) MINUTE(L&C)  
03/28/08 (S) L&C RPT 2DP 1NR  
03/28/08 (S) DP: ELLIS, DAVIS  
03/28/08 (S) NR: BUNDE  
04/06/08 (S) TRANSMITTED TO (H)  
04/06/08 (S) VERSION: SJR 18  
04/07/08 (H) READ THE FIRST TIME - REFERRALS  
04/07/08 (H) HES  
04/08/08 (H) HES AT 3:00 PM CAPITOL 106

#### **WITNESS REGISTER**

KATHERINE PUSTAY, Staff  
to Senator Bill Wielechowski  
Alaska State Legislature  
Juneau, Alaska

**POSITION STATEMENT:** Responded to questions on behalf of Senator Wielechowski, prime sponsor.

#### **ACTION NARRATIVE**

**CHAIR PEGGY WILSON** called the House Health, Education and Social Services Standing Committee meeting to order at [3:03:54 PM](#). Representatives Wilson, Roses, Gardner, and Fairclough were present at the call to order. Representative Cissna arrived as the meeting was in progress.

[3:04:09 PM](#)

SJR 18-CHILD PRODUCT SAFETY

[3:04:47 PM](#)

CHAIR WILSON announced that the only order of business would be SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 18, Requesting the President of the United States to direct the United States Consumer Product Safety Commission to test the materials used in children's toys and other children's products for toxicity and to make the results publicly available.

[3:05:31 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE ROSES moved to report SJR 18 out of committee. There being no objection, SJR 18 was so moved.

[3:05:44 PM](#)

CHAIR WILSON commented, "I was totally amazed, ... 107 recalls already."

REPRESENTATIVE GARDNER asked if the problem lies primarily with imported, foreign-made toys, and parts, or if there is also concern for domestic-made products.

[3:06:24 PM](#)

KATHERINE PUSTAY, Staff, to Senator Bill Wielechowski, Alaska State Legislature, answered that the problem stems from the lack of a dedicated watch dog agency, for domestic, or international toy products. Further, there is no government agency charged with testing toys for toxicity levels. The Consumer Products Safety Commission monitors toys for choking and ingestion hazards, but not for content. She opined that many of the recent problems have arisen with the globalization movement, and the lack of oversight. Recalls only occur when something has become glaringly apparent. There is an inherent faith on the part of the consumer, when purchasing a child's toy, that it will be safe, she finished.

[3:08:25 PM](#)

CHAIR WILSON added that lead based paint has been outlawed in the U.S. for many years, but that does not hold true for many countries.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business before the committee, the House Health, Education and Social Services Standing Committee meeting was adjourned at 3:08 p.m.