

2015-K770

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION memorializing Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim June 2015, as Fireworks Safety Month in the State of New York

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to recognize official months that are set aside to increase awareness of serious issues that affect the lives of citizens of New York State; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, it is the sense of this Legislative Body to memorialize Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim June 2015, as Fireworks Safety Month in the State of New York; and

WHEREAS, A U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) study highlights an increase in the number of fireworks-related deaths and injuries; device malfunction and improper use are associated with the most injuries; and

WHEREAS, In 2013, there were eight deaths and an estimated 11,400 consumers who sustained injuries related to fireworks; this is an increase from 8,700 injuries in 2012; 65 percent, or 7,400, of the injuries in 2013 occurred in the 30 days surrounding July 4, 2013; and

WHEREAS, CPSC staff reviewed fireworks incident reports from hospital emergency rooms, death certificate files, news clippings and other sources to estimate deaths, injuries and incident scenarios; injuries were frequently the result of the user playing with lit fireworks or igniting fireworks while holding the device; and

WHEREAS, CPSC has reported that nearly half of the reported injuries due to fireworks typically occur in people under 20 years old, while 30 percent of the injuries typically involve children under age 15; and

WHEREAS, In 2013, children younger than age five experienced a higher estimated per capita injury rate than any other age group; past reports indicate that consumers sometimes feel comfortable handing off to chil-

dren fireworks devices perceived to be less powerful, such as sparklers and bottle rockets; and

WHEREAS, Fireworks incidents become deadly when banned, professional and home-manufactured devices are involved; in each of the eight fireworks-related deaths recorded in 2013, the victim was manipulating (or was a bystander to someone who was handling) a banned, professional or home-manufactured device; and

WHEREAS, The State of New York adopted into law an Act that provides for sale, possession, and use of certain consumer fireworks in the State of New York outside of New York City, upon approval of local governments; and

WHEREAS, Consumer-bought fireworks which burn at around 2,000 degrees Fahrenheit, can cause very serious injuries and burns; and

WHEREAS, As Americans get ready to celebrate Independence Day, this Legislative Body continues its commitment to educate the public of the importance of Fireworks Safety in an effort to ensure safe celebration on the Fourth of July; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to memorialize Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim June 2015, as Fireworks Safety Month in the State of New York; and be it further

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause further to request all New Yorkers attend a professional public display instead of igniting consumer fireworks; and to those individuals who decide to purchase consumer fireworks, never let young children play with fireworks of any type, and those who handle the fireworks, as well as bystanders, wear protective eyewear that meets parameters set by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI); and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to The Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo, Governor of the State of New York.