

House Concurrent Resolution No. 25

94TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

5093L.011

2 **Whereas**, the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) is charged with
3 protecting the public from unreasonable risks of serious injury or death from more than 15,000
4 types of consumer products under the agency's jurisdiction. The CPSC has rated furniture tip-
5 overs as number 3 of the top 5 hidden home hazards; and

6 **Whereas**, according to the CPSC, each year an estimated 3,000 children ages 5 and
7 younger nationwide go to the emergency room with injuries caused by television sets falling or
8 tipping over, and at least 100 people - mostly young children - have been killed since 2000 by
9 falling televisions or other furniture; and

10
11 **Whereas**, in September of 2006, the CPSC warned parents and caregivers about
12 the dangers of television and heavy furniture tipping over and killing young children. From 2000
13 to 2005, CPSC had reports of 36 television tip-over deaths and 65 furniture tip-over deaths.
14 More than 80% of all these deaths involved young children; and

15
16 **Whereas**, the number of deaths due to furniture tip-overs is on the rise. In 2006,
17 the CPSC reported 31 deaths from improperly secured furniture and televisions, with tip-overs
18 resulting in an average of 22 deaths per year; and

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20 **Whereas**, very heavy furniture items can potentially cause crush injuries, but more
21 commonly when a large dresser, shelf, or home entertainment center tips, the resulting injury is
22 often suffocation. Children become pinned between the tipping furniture and the bed or floor,
23 unable to breathe or call for help, making it a nearly silent event; and

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25 **Whereas**, the danger of tipping comes when a child tries to climb the front of a
26 furniture piece. In these accidents, the child attempts to reach the top of the furniture piece by
27 using a bottom drawer or shelf like a step. The weight of the furniture and the child pulling

28 down in the front causes the whole piece to tilt forward. Heavy items on top of the furniture can
29 fall on the child or the furniture piece itself can fall forward onto the child; and
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31 **Whereas**, the committee of the American Society for Testing and Materials
32 (ASTM) met in March 2007 to discuss and revise a proposed standard for testing tipping on
33 dressers, armoires, and drawer chests. However, the ASTM can only establish voluntary
34 standards and the proposed revised standard does not include other types of furniture, such as
35 entertainment centers, television stands, or any piece of furniture 30 inches in height or less; and
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37 **Whereas**, while the ASTM, furniture executives, and consumer safety advocates
38 are working together to form voluntary safety standards to address this issue, the increase in
39 tipping furniture deaths and injuries to children demands mandatory regulation regarding
40 labeling, furniture standards, and the use of anchoring devices:
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42 **Now, therefore, be it resolved** that the members of the House of
43 Representatives of the Ninety-fourth General Assembly, Second Regular Session, the Senate
44 concurring therein, hereby urge the United States Congress and the Consumer Product Safety
45 Commission to immediately enact mandatory regulations that:
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47 (1) Strengthens and makes mandatory the ASTM International's voluntary furniture
48 safety standard for furniture tip-over hazards;
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50 (2) Requires warning labels on tip-over risks to be posted on all assembled and ready-to-
51 assemble furniture and major appliances; and
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53 (3) Requires all furniture and major appliances with a tip-over risk to come with
54 anchoring devices that can be used to safely secure them to walls; and
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56 **Be it further resolved** that the Chief Clerk of the Missouri House of
57 Representatives be instructed to prepare properly inscribed copies of this resolution for Nancy
58 A. Nord, the Acting Chairman of the Consumer Product Safety Commission and each member
59 of the Missouri Congressional delegation.