

Save Our Sensible Safeguards!

How S1986 and/or A2486 Would Harm New Jersey

These are examples of New Jersey regulatory safeguards that are more stringent than the federal government's. All of these examples apply to S1986. Assembly floor amendments to A2486 exclude some of these examples, such as for regulations issued by the NJ Department of Labor and Workforce Development.

PROTECTING POLICE OFFICERS AND FIREFIGHTERS

Lead and Noise Exposure: NJ regulates exposure to lead dust and noise in police firing ranges. These exceed federal standards.

Fire Brigades: NJ requires more stringent rules for respiratory protection and rope/harness systems than federal standards.

PROTECTING NURSES, OTHER HEALTH CARE WORKERS AND PATIENTS

Preventing Back and Other Ergonomic Injuries: NJ has drafted rules to protect hospital and nursing home employees and their patients from these crippling and costly injuries. The federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) has no such regulation.

Preventing Violence Against Health Care Employees: NJ has drafted rules to protect hospital and nursing home employees and their patients from violence. OSHA has no such regulation.

PROTECTING WORKERS FROM HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES

Safer Chemical Plants and Oil Refineries: NJ's Toxic Catastrophe Prevention rules require facilities to review whether they can adopt safer and more secure chemicals and processing methods and to explain in writing if they do not correct facility maintenance deficiencies that could lead to disaster. Neither EPA nor the US Department of Homeland Security requires this. NJ's rules for preventing major chemical accidents involving chlorine, hydrofluoric acid, and certain other "extraordinarily hazardous substances" are more restrictive.

Safer Construction Sites: NJ enforces its own rules to prohibit the dry cutting and grinding of masonry, which causes the lethal lung disease called silicosis. OSHA has no such regulation.

Disclosing Information About Toxic Hazards: NJ's "Right to Know" rules require chemical containers to be labeled with the *real* chemical name of their contents and not just obscure code or trade names. OSHA has no such regulation.

PROTECTING OUR ENVIRONMENT

Oil Spills: NJ has more stringent requirements than the federal government for containing spills; NJ regulates non-petroleum chemical spills, which the federal government does not. NJ has a far more extensive inspection program.

Safe Drinking Water: NJ regulates 15 toxic chemicals for which we have stronger standards than EPA. In some cases, NJ also has a standard (MTBE, for example) when EPA has none.

Pesticides: NJ has rules regulating pesticide applications in schools; EPA does not.

Preventing Pollution: NJ requires industrial facilities to evaluate whether they can reduce their air and water pollution emissions; EPA does not.

Hazardous Waste: NJ requires hazardous waste transporters to be licensed; EPA does not.

ADDRESSING TERRORISM

Chemical Plant Security: NJ's unique Best Practice Standards and training requirements for chemical plant workers exceed weak or nonexistent federal standards.

PROTECTING OUR CHILDREN

Indoor Air Quality: NJ requires public and charter schools and other public facilities to maintain healthy indoor air quality through ventilation maintenance and measures to prevent mold. The "Kiddie Kollege" law requires day care centers and schools to assess potential toxic hazards to children before licensing. Federal agencies do not.

Numerous other New Jersey regulations and requirements are justifiably more protective than either weak or non-existent federal standards.

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