

WHEREAS, The recent accidents clearly demonstrate a need for improved safety practices in the manufacture of fireworks to reduce the likelihood of future accidents; and

WHEREAS, To assure that adequate safety practices are being adhered to and enforced, they should be clearly set out in statutes and regulations; now, therefore,

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland, That Sections 15 through 25 of Article 38A of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1965 Replacement Volume and 1969 Supplement), title "Fires and Investigations," subtitle "Fireworks," be and they are hereby repealed; and that new Sections 15 through 25 be and they are enacted in lieu thereof, to stand in the place of the sections repealed, and to read as follows:*

15.

(a) *The term "Fireworks" as used in this subtitle means firecrackers, squibs, rockets, sparklers, Roman candles, torpedoes, bombs, grenades, fire balloons, signal lights, and any combustible or explosive composition, or any substance or combination of substances, or article prepared for the purpose of producing a visible or an audible effect by combustion, explosion, deflagration, or detonation. The term "fireworks" does not include toy pistols, toy canes, toy guns, or other devices in which paper caps containing twenty-five hundredths grains or less of explosive compound are used, provided they are so constructed that the hand cannot come in contact with the cap when in place for use; or toy pistol paper caps which contain less than twenty-hundredths grains of explosive mixture.*

(b) *"Class B fireworks" means special fireworks, designed primarily to produce visible or audible effects by combustion or explosion. Class B fireworks includes toy torpedoes, railway torpedoes, firecrackers and salutes that do not qualify as Class C fireworks, exhibition display pieces, illuminating projectiles, incendiary projectiles, incendiary grenades; smoke projectiles or bombs containing expelling charges but without bursting charges; flash powders in inner units not exceeding two ounces each, flash sheets in interior packages, flash powder or spreader cartridges containing not over 72 grains of flash powder each; and flash cartridges consisting of a paper cartridge shell, small arms primer and flash composition, not exceeding 180 grains all assembled in one piece. The use of the term "Class B fireworks" is based on United States Department of Transportation regulations.*

(c) *"Class C fireworks" means common fireworks, designed primarily to produce visible effects by combustion. Some small devices designed to produce an audible effect are included, but only when containing less than two grains of pyrotechnic composition. Class C fireworks include the following:*

(1) *Roman candles, not exceeding ten balls, with total pyrotechnic composition not exceeding twenty grams in weight and inside tube diameter not exceeding 3/8 inch.*

(2) *Sky rockets with sticks, total pyrotechnic composition not exceeding twenty grams in weight, and inside tube diameter not exceeding 1/2 inch.*