

# Senators vote against product safety bill

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OTTAWA —A majority of senators voted against amendments that would have watered down a bill that would overhaul consumer safety product legislation in Canada.

Forty-four senators on the government side voted to reject the amendments, whereas 42 senators voted in favour of changing the bill.

There were two abstentions.

The Conservative government has been trying to rework the consumer product safety regulatory framework for the past two years, but key Liberal members of the Senate social affairs committee voted last week to amend Bill C-6, also known as the Canada Consumer Product Safety Act.

Federal Health Minister Leona Aglukkaq has lashed out at the Senators, saying the amendments weaken the bill.

"Sadly, (with) these amendments the Department of Agriculture has more effective tools to protect animals than Health Canada would have to protect the health and safety of Canadians," Aglukkaq told a news conference last week.

One amendment would deny inspectors the ability to issue a mandatory recall without consulting the manufacturer.

Another would require them to get a search warrant before performing spot checks on home offices.

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But Liberal Senator Joseph Day, who acted as the critic for the bill in committee and introduced the amendments, has said the original bill gave too much power to health inspectors.