
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO REVIEW THE AVAILABLE
SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH ON DECA-BROMODIPHENYL ETHER AND ASSESS
THE AVAILABILITY OF SAFER, EFFECTIVE, AND TECHNICALLY
FEASIBLE FLAME RETARDANTS THAT CAN BE USED IN ITS PLACE.

1 WHEREAS, consumer product manufacturers commonly add flame-
2 retardant chemicals to plastics and other flammable materials to
3 reduce the risk of fire; and

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5 WHEREAS, one of the most common flame-retardant chemicals
6 is decabromodiphenyl ether (DBDPE); and

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8 WHEREAS, DBDPE is a chemical that reduces the spread of
9 fire in a variety of common products such as televisions,
10 electronic casings, wiring and cable insulation, and commercial
11 upholstery textiles; and

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13 WHEREAS, production and use of two other polybrominated
14 diphenyl ethers known as octabromodiphenyl ether and
15 pentabromodiphenyl ether have ceased in the United States
16 (U.S.); and

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18 WHEREAS, although industry scientists assert that DBDPE are
19 unlikely to be efficiently absorbed by living organisms, there
20 is some evidence of DBDPE being found in the tissue of living
21 organisms in the U.S. and Europe; and

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23 WHEREAS, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is
24 examining the presence of polybrominated diphenyl ethers in
25 humans and the environment; and

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27 WHEREAS, the European Union recently exempted DBDPE from
28 further regulation of its use in electronics and electronic
29 equipment and has begun a 10-year monitoring study to develop
30 further information about DBDPE in the environment, some early
31 results of which may be available within two years; and



