
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO TOXIC PRODUCTS.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that chronic diseases
2 such as asthma, autism, birth defects, cancers, developmental
3 disabilities, diabetes, endometriosis, infertility, and
4 Parkinson's disease are increasingly linked to repeated and
5 increased exposure to toxic substances. Growing children are
6 particularly at risk to chemicals in their environment, as they
7 face greater exposure per pound of body weight and are
8 physiologically more susceptible to chemicals. Precautionary
9 measures must be taken to protect them.

10 A recent United States Centers for Disease Control and
11 Prevention study found that ninety-five per cent of Americans
12 have detectable levels of bisphenol-A in their bodies. The
13 observed levels of bisphenol-A were within the range of
14 concentrations known to reliably cause adverse results in
15 laboratory experiments. Government toxicologists in the
16 national toxicology program, including scientists from the
17 National Institutes of Health and other agencies, have expressed
18 concern that bisphenol-A can cause developmental problems in the



1 brain and hormonal systems of infants and children.
2 Toxicologists based their findings on studies conducted on
3 animals and could not dismiss the possibility that the effects
4 in animals may occur in humans.

5 More than one hundred thirty studies have suggested that
6 bisphenol-A exposure, even in very low doses, is linked to a
7 staggering number of health problems, including prostate cancer,
8 breast cancer, obesity, attention deficit and hyperactivity
9 disorders, brain damage, altered immune system, lowered sperm
10 count, and premature puberty. Numerous studies have shown that
11 polycarbonate plastics break down and leach bisphenol-A into
12 food or beverages in contact with the plastics.

13 Scientific evidence has also shown that phthalates are
14 found in humans at levels associated with adverse effects.
15 Population studies show that virtually everyone carries some
16 level of phthalates in their body. The European Union and many
17 countries have restricted the use of phthalates in children's
18 toys. The European Union has banned di-2-ethyl hexyl phthalate,
19 di-n-butyl phthalate, and butyl benzyl phthalate in all toys and
20 child care articles and diisononyl phthalate, diisodecyl
21 phthalate, and di-n-octyl phthalate in toys and child care
22 articles small enough for a child's mouth. Prior to the



1 European Union ban, the following countries had also banned
2 phthalates in children's toys: Argentina, Austria, Cyprus,
3 Czech Republic, Denmark, Fiji, Finland, Germany, Greece, Italy,
4 Japan, Mexico, Norway, and Sweden.

5 The purpose of this Act is to require the legislative
6 reference bureau to perform a study, working with information
7 from the Centers for Disease Control, investigating the risks
8 involved in the use of phthalates and bisphenol-A in consumer
9 products, including children's toys and childcare products.

10 SECTION 2. (a) The legislative reference bureau shall
11 perform a study, working with information from the Centers for
12 Disease Control, investigating the risks involved in the use of
13 phthalates and bisphenol-A in consumer products, including
14 children's toys and childcare products.

15 (b) The legislative reference bureau shall submit its
16 findings, including any suggested legislation to the legislature
17 no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the 2010
18 Regular Session.

19 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on January 1, 2050.



Report Title:

Children; Toxic Substances; Bisphenol-A, Phthalates

Description:

Requires the Legislative Reference Bureau to perform a study, working with information from the Centers for Disease Control investigating the risks involved in the use of phthalates and bisphenol-A in consumer products, including children's toys and childcare products. (HB1633 HD1)

