
SENATE BILL 5348

State of Washington

63rd Legislature

2013 Regular Session

By Senators Nelson, Kohl-Welles, and Kline

Read first time 01/28/13. Referred to Committee on Energy, Environment & Telecommunications.

1 AN ACT Relating to directing the department of health to review the
2 impact of chemicals on public health; adding new sections to chapter
3 43.70 RCW; creating a new section; and making an appropriation.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that certain chemicals
6 and chemical mixtures in the environment have the potential to harm
7 public health and may contribute to major adverse health outcomes such
8 as asthma, diabetes, obesity, and learning and behavioral problems.
9 Additionally, evidence indicates that citizens of the state are exposed
10 to many chemicals and chemical mixtures in the environment for which
11 the impacts on public health and the environment are not clearly
12 understood.

13 The legislature also finds that the department of health is the
14 state agency that is directed to protect public health. It is
15 therefore the intent of the legislature that the department of health
16 assess existing and developing scientific information and provide
17 updates to the legislature so as to provide current information in
18 which to better understand the potential implications for public health
19 from exposure to chemicals and chemical mixtures.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 43.70 RCW
2 to read as follows:

3 The department shall:

4 (1) Research, analyze, and evaluate priority chemicals and chemical
5 mixtures, including new and emerging chemicals, that may prove to be of
6 concern to public health, that are released from household products,
7 furnishings, or building materials, or found in food, drinking water,
8 soil, or air;

9 (2) Provide information to the legislature about priority chemicals
10 or mixtures of chemicals, including new and emerging chemicals,
11 released from household products, furnishings, or building materials,
12 or found in food, drinking water, soil, or air of importance to
13 protecting public health that should be further evaluated, restricted,
14 or substituted with a safer alternative; and

15 (3) Determine public health priorities and strategies for
16 preventing and reducing related adverse health outcomes from exposure
17 to priority chemicals or mixtures of chemicals.

18 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 43.70 RCW
19 to read as follows:

20 Beginning June 30, 2014, and every two years thereafter, the
21 department shall inform the legislature about current ongoing
22 department research, analysis, and evaluation of: Priority chemicals;
23 public health priorities and strategies for preventing adverse health
24 outcomes from exposure to these priority chemicals and chemical
25 mixtures; and recommendations for possible actions to reduce exposure
26 to priority chemicals and prevent and reduce related adverse human
27 health outcomes. The recommendations may include chemical
28 restrictions, product notifications, requirements for safer
29 alternatives, and revisions to the department's statutory authority
30 necessary to achieve better protection of public health. The
31 department shall provide updated findings and recommendations to the
32 appropriate legislative committees every two years thereafter, as
33 required under RCW 43.01.036.

34 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** The sum of five hundred thousand dollars, or
35 as much thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated for the biennium

1 ending June 30, 2015, from the state toxics control account to the
2 department of health for the purposes of this act.

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