



AB 652 – Banning PFAS in Juvenile Products

Summary:

PFAS chemicals are harmful to human health. AB 652 would reduce one source of PFAS contamination in our children by prohibiting its use in a range of juvenile products, such as nap pads and crib mattresses.

Background:

The class of chemicals known as perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances include chemicals known as a group are called PFAS. These super stable chemicals have been used in thousands of consumer products for decades. Teflon was the best known of these chemicals. However, American companies stopped making this version of PFAS after it became known for its negative health impacts and its long life in the body and the environment. The chemical manufacturers now make newer versions of PFAS, which retain the same desirable qualities of oil and liquid resistance and claim they are safe with no significant health concerns.

DTSC's Safer Consumer Products Program (SCCP), established in 2008, has designated PFAS in carpets as a priority product. To make that designation, DTSC had to find that the newer versions of PFAS also have harmful health impacts and need to be removed from carpets and rugs. Several studies have reported the adverse effects of PFAS on children's health and include: growth and learning abilities; dyslipidemia; immunity (including vaccine response and asthma); renal function; and, age at menarche.

The question arises: why not let the SCCP address what AB 652 is attempting to do? The answer is that SCCP is moving so slowly that it could take into the next decade to accomplish what the Legislature can do in a few months to protect babies and young children from PFAS chemicals that will stay in their bodies for many years and affecting immunity, the endocrine system, and even possibly cause cancer.

PFAS is not an essential use on a nursing pillow or car seat, and while stain or water resistance may be a convenient characteristic of the product, there are hidden health costs and concomitant economic costs down the line.

Prior Legislation:

SB 1044 (Allen 2020) - banned PFAS in fire-fighting foam in most applications.

AB 2998 (Bloom 2018) - banned flame retardant chemicals in almost the same group of juvenile products as proposed in AB 652.

AB 652:

- Prohibits the sale of a wide range of juvenile products made with PFAS chemicals beginning on July 1, 2023
- Prohibits the substitution of a chemical into the product that is a Prop 65 chemical.

Support:

Environmental Working Group (sponsor)

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