

# House Research Act Summary

**CHAPTER:** 277

**SESSION:** 2014 Regular Session

**TOPIC:** Toxic chemicals regulation

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## Overview

Chapter 277 expands current bans on the disposal of mercury-containing products and requires thermostat manufacturers to finance the collection and management of replaced mercury-containing thermostats; bans the sale or use of lead- and mercury-containing wheel-weights, counterweights, and balancing products; bans the sale of certain cleaning products containing triclosan; and modifies the ban on children's products containing formaldehyde.

### Section

- [115A.932] Subd. 1. Prohibitions and recycling requirements.** Expands the prohibition on placing mercury-containing products in solid waste, a wastewater disposal system, or in a solid waste processing or disposal facility from several specific products to all products that contain mercury.
- [116.92] Subd. 4. Removal from service; products containing mercury.** Expands the list of products from which mercury must be reused or recycled when the product is removed from service or repaired to include all mercury-containing products. Requires such an item to be transported in a container designed to prevent mercury from escaping to the environment.
- [116.92] Subd. 5. Thermostats.** Makes thermostat manufacturers responsible for collecting and managing mercury-containing thermostats removed from service, and for reporting annually to the Pollution Control Agency on these activities, which may be conducted by manufacturers individually or through a manufacturers' association. Allows wholesalers, retailers, or contractors who install thermostats to act as collection sites.

**Section**

- 4** [116.92] **Subd. 6. Mercury thermometers prohibited.** Strikes language exempting certain mercury thermometers (used for food development, an animal agriculture climate control system, or to calibrate other equipment) from the prohibition on selling mercury-containing thermometers. A manufacturer may comply with this section by receiving an exemption from a state that belongs to the Interstate Mercury Education and Reduction Clearinghouse certifying that no feasible nonmercury replacement part or alternative is available.
- 5** [116.92] **Subd. 8j. Exclusion for existing equipment.** Exempts mercury-containing thermometers that are part of an industrial measurement or control system from the prohibition in section 4 until the system is replaced or a nonmercury thermometer is available.
- 6** [116.92] **Subd. 8k. Ban; mercury in balancing and dampening products and equipment.** Prohibits the sale, installation, or use of mercury-containing products used for balancing, dampening, or providing a weight or counterweight function.
- 7** [116.931] **Wheel weights and balancing products; lead and mercury prohibition.**
- Subd. 1. Definitions.**
- Subd. 2. Tire service.** Prohibits using a wheel weight or other product containing mercury or lead to balance motor vehicle or aircraft wheels.
- Subd. 3. Sales ban.** Prohibits the sale of mercury- or lead-containing weights or products to balance motor vehicle or aircraft wheels.
- Subd. 4. New motor vehicles.** Prohibits sale of a new motor vehicle equipped with a weight that contains lead or mercury for balancing wheels.
- Subd. 5. Salvage.** Prohibits the crushing or shredding of a motor vehicle, aircraft, watercraft, railroad, or piece of industrial equipment without inspection and removal of all mercury- or lead-containing weights for balancing wheels.
- Subd. 6. Management of wheel weights and balancing products.** Requires the recycling or proper management of mercury and lead in wheel weights and other balancing products.
- Subd. 7. Educational materials; outreach.** Requires the agency to develop materials and conduct outreach to educate businesses subject to the prohibitions in this section prior to July 1, 2016.
- 8** [145.945] **Certain sales of cleaning products prohibited.**
- Subd. 1. Prohibition.** Prohibits, as of January 1, 2017, the retail sale in this state of cleaning products that contain triclosan that are used to sanitize or cleanse the human body.

**Section**

**Subd. 2. Exception.** Exempts products that the Food and Drug Administration has approved for consumer use from the prohibition in subdivision 1.

**9** [325F.176] **Definitions.** Defines “intentionally added chemical.”

**10** [325F.177] **Formaldehyde in children’s products; ban.** Restricts the ban on selling children’s products containing formaldehyde in this state to those to which the chemical is intentionally added at levels exceeding 0.05 percent.