

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

FILE NUMBER: H.F. 2542
Version: As introduced

DATE: March 3, 2014

Authors: Hortman

Subject: Prohibitions against mercury and lead in certain products

Analyst: Bob Eleff

This publication can be made available in alternative formats upon request. Please call 651-296-6753 (voice); or the Minnesota State Relay Service at 1-800-627-3529 (TTY) for assistance. Summaries are also available on our website at: www.house.mn/hrd/.

Overview

House File 2542 expands current bans on the disposal of mercury-containing products; institutes new bans on the sale or use lead- and of mercury-containing wheel-weights, counterweights, balancing, and damping products; and requires thermostat manufacturers to finance the collection and management of replaced mercury-containing thermostats.

Section

- 1 **[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.
- 2 **[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.
- 3 **[116.92] Subd. 5. Thermostats.** Makes a thermostat manufacturer responsible for the costs of collecting and managing replaced mercury-containing thermostats. Specifies that the manufacturer must provide both financial and nonfinancial incentives to consumers to ensure that mercury in thermostats removed from service is reused or recycled.

Authorizes thermostat manufacturers to participate in programs to collect and properly manage waste thermostats, and requires annual reports to the agency on the activities of such programs.

Section

- 4** [116.92] **Subd. 6. Mercury thermometers prohibited.** Strikes language providing exceptions for certain mercury thermometers (those used for food development, as part of 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 non-mercury-containing replacement part or alternative is available.
- 5** [116.92] **Subd. 8k. Ban; mercury in balancing and damping products and equipment.** Prohibits the sale of mercury-containing products used for balancing, damping, or providing a weight or counterweight function.
- 6** [116.931] **Wheel weights and balancing products; lead and mercury prohibition.**
- Subd. 1. Tire service.** Prohibits using a wheel weight or other product containing mercury or lead to balance motor vehicle or aircraft wheels.
- Subd. 2. Sales ban.** Prohibits the sale of mercury- or lead-containing weights or products to balance motor vehicle or aircraft wheels.
- Subd. 3. New motor vehicles.** Prohibits sale of a new motor vehicle equipped with a weight that contains lead or mercury for balancing wheels.
- Subd. 4. 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. 5. Management of wheel weights and balancing products.** Requires the recycling or proper management of mercury in wheel weights and other balancing products.