

**HOUSE BILL NO. 96**

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY REPRESENTATIVES TARR, Kawasaki, Gara

Introduced: 2/1/13

Referred: Labor and Commerce, Judiciary

**A BILL**

**FOR AN ACT ENTITLED**

1   **"An Act relating to chemicals of high concern and to chemicals in children's products;**  
2   **and adding an unlawful act to the Alaska Unfair Trade Practices and Consumer**  
3   **Protection Act."**

4   **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

5    \* **Section 1.** AS 18.31 is amended by adding new sections to read:

6                   **Article 5. Chemicals in Children's Products.**

7                   **Sec. 18.31.610. Identification of chemicals of high concern.** The department,  
8           after consultation with the Department of Health and Social Services, shall publish a  
9           list of chemicals of high concern. The department may not include a chemical on the  
10          list unless it has been identified by a governmental entity based on credible scientific  
11          evidence as

12                               (1) a carcinogen, a reproductive toxicant, a developmental toxicant, or  
13          an endocrine disruptor;

14                               (2) persistent, bioaccumulative, and toxic; or

1 (3) very persistent and very bioaccumulative.

2 **Sec. 18.31.620. Revision of list.** The department may periodically review and  
3 revise the list of chemicals of high concern. The department may add a chemical to the  
4 list if the department, after consultation with the Department of Health and Social  
5 Services, determines that the chemical is a chemical of high concern. The department  
6 may remove a chemical from the list of chemicals of high concern based on evidence  
7 that the chemical is not present in a children's product or otherwise would not be  
8 subject to the requirements of AS 18.31.610 - 18.31.800.

9 **Sec. 18.31.630. Designation of priority chemicals.** (a) The department may  
10 designate by regulation a chemical of high concern as a priority chemical if, after  
11 consultation with the Department of Health and Social Services, the department  
12 determines that

13 (1) the chemical has been found, through biomonitoring, to be present  
14 in human blood, including umbilical cord blood, breast milk, urine, or other bodily  
15 tissues or fluids;

16 (2) the chemical has been found, through sampling and analysis, to be  
17 present in household dust, indoor air, drinking water, or elsewhere in the home  
18 environment;

19 (3) the chemical has been found, through monitoring, to be present in  
20 fish, wildlife, or the natural environment;

21 (4) the chemical is present in a consumer product used or present in the  
22 home;

23 (5) the chemical has been identified as a high production volume  
24 chemical by the United States Environmental Protection Agency; or

25 (6) the sale or use of the chemical or a product containing the chemical  
26 has been banned in another state in the United States.

27 (b) The department may, without making the determination required by (a) of  
28 this section, designate mercury or a mercury compound as a priority chemical for the  
29 purpose of prohibiting the manufacture, sale, or distribution of a children's product  
30 that contains mercury.

31 **Sec. 18.31.640. Revision of the designation of priority chemicals.** The

department shall review the designation of priority chemicals at least every three years and may designate additional chemicals as priority chemicals if the department determines, after consultation with the Department of Health and Social Services, that the chemicals are priority chemicals.

**Sec. 18.31.650. Notification of use of priority chemical.** (a) Not later than 180 days after a priority chemical is identified under AS 18.31.630 or 18.31.640, a person who is a manufacturer or distributor of a children's product that is sold in the state and that contains a priority chemical shall notify the department in writing that the children's product contains a priority chemical and shall provide, for the children's product,

- (1) an identification;
- (2) the number sold or distributed for sale in the state or nationally;
- (3) the priority chemical contained in the children's product;
- (4) the amount of the priority chemical in the children's product; and
- (5) the intended purpose of the priority chemical in the children's product.

(b) The department may extend the deadline for submission of the information required under (a) of this section if the department determines that the manufacturer or distributor needs more time to comply with the submission requirements or if the information is not needed at that time.

(c) The department may waive all or part of the notification requirement under (a) of this section if the department determines that substantially equivalent information is already publicly available, that the information is not needed for the purposes of AS 18.31.610 - 18.31.800, or that the amount of the priority chemical used in the children's product is insignificant.

**Sec. 18.31.660. Supplemental information.** (a) In addition to providing the information required to be in the notice under AS 18.31.650, a manufacturer or distributor of a children's product that is sold in the state and that contains a priority chemical shall, if requested by the department, provide

- (1) information on the likelihood that the chemical will be released from the children's product to the environment during the life cycle of the children's

1 product and the extent to which users of the children's product are likely to be exposed  
2 to the chemical;

3 (2) information on the extent to which the chemical is present in the  
4 environment or human body; and

5 (3) an assessment of the availability, cost, feasibility, performance, and  
6 potential for harm to human health and the environment of alternatives to the priority  
7 chemical in the children's product and the reason the priority chemical is used in the  
8 manufacture of the children's product instead of alternatives identified under this  
9 paragraph.

10 (b) If a manufacturer or distributor does not provide the information requested  
11 under (a) of this section in the time set by the department, the department may assess a  
12 fee on the manufacturer or distributor to cover the department's costs to contract with  
13 another person to prepare an independent report that provides the information  
14 requested under (a)(1) and (2) of this section and the availability of safer alternatives  
15 for the children's product.

16 (c) In addition to the other information required by this section, a  
17 manufacturer or distributor of a children's product that contains a priority chemical  
18 may provide additional information to the department regarding the potential for harm  
19 to human health and the environment from specific uses of the priority chemical for  
20 the children's products of the manufacturer or distributor.

21 **Sec. 18.31.670. Information management fee.** When a manufacturer or  
22 distributor submits a notice or other information under AS 18.31.650 or 18.31.660(a)  
23 or (b), the department may charge the manufacturer or distributor a reasonable fee to  
24 cover the department's costs to review the information collected.

25 **Sec. 18.31.680. Prohibitions by department.** (a) The department may  
26 prohibit by regulation the manufacture, distribution, or sale in the state of a children's  
27 product containing a priority chemical if the department finds, after consideration of  
28 information filed under AS 18.31.650 and 18.31.660 and other relevant information  
29 submitted to or obtained by the department, that

30 (1) distribution of the children's product directly or indirectly exposes  
31 children and vulnerable populations to the priority chemical; and

1 (2) one or more safer alternatives to the priority chemical are available  
2 at a comparable cost.

3 (b) If there are several available safer alternatives to a priority chemical, the  
4 department may prohibit the sale of children's products that do not contain the safer  
5 alternative that is least toxic to human health or least harmful to the environment.

6 (c) The department shall specify the effective date of the prohibition, but the  
7 regulations creating a prohibition under this section may not take effect until at least  
8 12 months after the notice of the proposed regulations published under AS 44.62.175  
9 (Administrative Procedure Act).

10 **Sec. 18.31.690. Determination of availability of safer alternatives.** When  
11 determining whether a safer alternative is available under AS 18.31.680, the  
12 department may, in the absence of persuasive evidence to the contrary, presume that

13 (1) an alternative is a safer alternative if the alternative is not a  
14 chemical of high concern;

15 (2) a safer alternative is available if the sale of the children's product  
16 containing the priority chemical has been banned by another state in the United States;

17 (3) a safer alternative is available if the children's product containing  
18 the priority chemical is an item of apparel or a novelty; and

19 (4) a safer alternative is available if the alternative is sold in the United  
20 States.

21 **Sec. 18.31.700. Compliance plan.** (a) Not later than 180 days before the  
22 effective date of a prohibition adopted under AS 18.31.680, the manufacturer or  
23 distributor of a children's product that contains the priority chemical and that is subject  
24 to the prohibition shall file a compliance plan with the department or seek a waiver  
25 under AS 18.31.710.

26 (b) A compliance plan under (a) of this section must

27 (1) identify the children's product that contains the priority chemical;

28 (2) specify whether compliance will be achieved by discontinuing the  
29 sale of the children's product in the state or by substituting a safer alternative in the  
30 product; and

31 (3) if compliance is achieved by substitution of a safer alternative in

1 the product, identify the safer alternative and the timetable for substitution.

2 **Sec. 18.31.710. Waiver for specific uses.** (a) The manufacturer or distributor  
3 of a children's product that contains a priority chemical and that is subject to a  
4 prohibition adopted under AS 18.31.680 may apply to the department for a waiver for  
5 one or more specific uses of the priority chemical in a children's product. The waiver  
6 application must, at a minimum,

7 (1) identify the specific children's product use for which the waiver is  
8 sought;

9 (2) identify the alternatives considered for substitution of the priority  
10 chemical;

11 (3) explain the basis for concluding that the use of an alternative is not  
12 feasible; and

13 (4) identify the steps that have and will be taken to minimize the use of  
14 the priority chemical in the children's product.

15 (b) The department may grant a waiver with or without conditions if the  
16 department finds that there is a need for the children's product in which the priority  
17 chemical is used and there are no technically or economically feasible alternatives for  
18 the use of the priority chemical in the children's product.

19 (c) The department may grant a waiver under (b) of this section for a period of  
20 time that may not exceed five years. The department may renew the waiver for one or  
21 more additional five-year periods if the manufacturer or distributor submits a written  
22 application that demonstrates that feasible alternatives are not available for technical  
23 or economical reasons. The department shall deny or grant a request for a waiver  
24 within 60 days after receiving a completed application for a waiver.

25 **Sec. 18.31.720. Notification responsibility.** A manufacturer or distributor of a  
26 children's product containing a priority chemical shall provide the persons who sell or  
27 distribute the product in the state with notice of the requirements of AS 18.31.610 -  
28 18.31.800.

29 **Sec. 18.31.730. Retailer prohibition.** If the manufacturer, distributor, or the  
30 state has notified the retailer of the prohibition of a children's product under  
31 AS 18.31.720, and the manufacturer has not received a waiver under AS 18.31.710, a

1 retailer may not knowingly sell the prohibited children's product after the effective  
 2 date of the prohibition adopted by the department under AS 18.31.680. In this section,  
 3 "knowingly" has the meaning given in AS 11.81.900.

4 **Sec. 18.31.740. General exemptions.** AS 18.31.610 - 18.31.800 do not apply  
 5 to

6 (1) chemicals in used products;

7 (2) motor vehicles or their component parts, except that the use of  
 8 priority chemicals in detachable car seats is not exempt; in this paragraph, "motor  
 9 vehicle" has the meaning given in AS 28.90.990; or

10 (3) priority chemicals generated solely as combustion by-products or  
 11 that are present in combustible fuels.

12 **Sec. 18.31.750. Education and assistance.** If the department has sufficient  
 13 resources for the program, the department shall develop a program to educate and  
 14 assist consumers and retailers in identifying children's products that may contain  
 15 priority chemicals.

16 **Sec. 18.31.760. Manufacturer and distributor prohibitions.** (a) A  
 17 manufacturer or distributor may not manufacture, sell, or distribute for sale in the state  
 18 a children's product containing a priority chemical if the manufacturer or distributor  
 19 has failed to provide information as required for the children's product under  
 20 AS 18.31.650 and 18.31.660. The department shall exempt a children's product from  
 21 this prohibition if the department determines that the lack of availability of the  
 22 children's product could pose an unreasonable risk to public health, safety, or welfare.

23 (b) A manufacturer or distributor may not manufacture, sell, or distribute for  
 24 sale in the state a children's product that contains a priority chemical and that is  
 25 prohibited by the department under AS 18.31.680, unless otherwise allowed by  
 26 AS 18.31.710.

27 **Sec. 18.31.770. Certificate of compliance.** If there are grounds to suspect that  
 28 a children's product is being sold in violation of AS 18.31.610 - 18.31.800, the  
 29 department may request that the manufacturer or distributor of the product provide a  
 30 certificate of compliance with the provisions of AS 18.31.610 - 18.31.800. Within 10  
 31 days after receipt of a request under this section, the manufacturer or distributor shall

1 (1) provide the department with the certificate attesting that the  
2 children's product does not contain a priority chemical; or

3 (2) notify the persons who sell the children's product in the state that  
4 the sale of the children's product is prohibited and provide the department with a list of  
5 the names and addresses of the persons notified.

6 **Sec. 18.31.780. Interstate clearinghouse to promote safer alternatives.** (a)  
7 The department may participate in an interstate clearinghouse to promote safer  
8 chemicals in children's products in cooperation with other states and governmental  
9 entities.

10 (b) Under (a) of this section, the department may cooperate with the interstate  
11 clearinghouse to

12 (1) classify existing chemicals in commerce into one of four  
13 categories: chemicals of high concern, chemicals of moderate concern, chemicals of  
14 unknown concern, and chemicals of low concern; in this paragraph,

15 (A) "chemical of low concern" means a chemical for which  
16 adequate toxicity and environmental data are available to determine that it is  
17 not a chemical of high concern, a chemical of moderate concern, or a chemical  
18 of unknown concern;

19 (B) "chemical of moderate concern" means a chemical  
20 identified by an authoritative governmental entity on the basis of credible  
21 scientific evidence as being suspected of causing an adverse health or  
22 environmental effect;

23 (C) "chemical of unknown concern" means a chemical for  
24 which insufficient data are available to classify it as a chemical of high  
25 concern, a chemical of moderate concern, or a chemical of low concern;

26 (2) organize and manage available data on chemicals, including  
27 information on uses, hazards, and environmental concerns;

28 (3) produce and inventory information on safer alternatives to specific  
29 uses of chemicals of concern and on model policies and programs;

30 (4) provide technical assistance to businesses and consumers related to  
31 safer alternatives; and

1 (5) undertake other activities in support of state programs to promote  
2 safer alternatives.

3 **Sec. 18.31.790. Regulations.** The department may adopt regulations under  
4 AS 44.62 (Administrative Procedure Act) to implement AS 18.31.610 - 18.31.800.

5 **Sec. 18.31.800. Definitions.** In AS 18.31.610 - 18.31.800, unless the context  
6 indicates otherwise,

7 (1) "alternative" means a substitute process, product, material,  
8 chemical, or strategy or a combination of a substitute process, product, material,  
9 chemical, or strategy that serves a functionally equivalent purpose to a chemical in a  
10 children's product;

11 (2) "chemical" means

12 (A) a substance with a distinct molecular composition;

13 (B) a group of substances if the molecular compositions of the  
14 substances are related;

15 (C) a substance that forms through decomposition, degradation,  
16 or metabolism of a substance described in (A) or (B) of this paragraph;

17 (3) "chemical of high concern" means a chemical identified as a  
18 chemical of high concern under AS 18.31.610;

19 (4) "child" means an individual under 16 years of age;

20 (5) "children's product" means a consumer product intended for use by  
21 a child, including baby products, toys, car seats, personal care products, and clothing;

22 (6) "consumer product" means an item sold for residential or  
23 commercial use, a component of the item, and the packaging of the item, except

24 (A) a food, a beverage, an additive to a food, an additive to a  
25 beverage, a tobacco product, paper, or a forest product;

26 (B) a pesticide regulated by the United States Environmental  
27 Protection Agency;

28 (C) a drug or biologic regulated by the United States Food and  
29 Drug Administration;

30 (D) the packaging of a drug or biologic regulated by the United  
31 States Food and Drug Administration if the packaging is regulated by the

United States Food and Drug Administration;

(7) "department" means the Department of Environmental Conservation;

(8) "distributor" means a person who sells consumer products to retail establishments on a wholesale basis;

(9) "manufacturer" means a person who, in the course of business,

(A) manufactures a consumer product;

(B) affixes a brand name to a consumer product; or

(C) is the importer or first domestic distributor of a consumer product if the consumer product was imported into the United States and if the person who manufactured or assembled the consumer product or whose brand name is affixed to the consumer product does not do business in the United States;

(10) "packaging" means, for a consumer product that is a food or beverage, the packaging of a food or beverage that is intentionally marketed or intended for a child under three years of age;

(11) "priority chemical" means a chemical identified as a priority chemical under AS 18.31.630;

(12) "safer alternative" means an alternative that, when compared to a priority chemical that it could replace,

(A) would reduce the potential for harm to human health or the environment;

(B) has not been shown to pose the same or greater potential for harm to human health or the environment as the priority chemical;

(13) "sell" includes an offer to sell.

\* **Sec. 2.** AS 45.50.471(b) is amended by adding a new paragraph to read:

(58) violating AS 18.31.730 or 18.31.760 (chemicals in children's products).

\* **Sec. 3.** The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section to read:

TRANSITION: INITIAL LIST OF CHEMICALS OF HIGH CONCERN. By

1 January 1, 2015, the Department of Environmental Conservation, in consultation with the  
2 Department of Health and Social Services, shall identify and publish the first list of chemicals  
3 of high concern under AS 18.31.610, enacted by sec. 1 of this Act. In developing the list, the  
4 departments may consider

5 (1) chemicals identified as Group 1 carcinogens or Group 2A carcinogens by  
6 the World Health Organization, International Agency for Research on Cancer;

7 (2) chemicals identified as "known to be carcinogens" or "reasonably  
8 anticipated to be carcinogens" under 42 U.S.C. 241(b)(4);

9 (3) chemicals identified as Group A carcinogens or Group B carcinogens by  
10 the United States Environmental Protection Agency;

11 (4) chemicals identified as reproductive or developmental toxicants by

12 (A) the United States Department of Health and Human Services,  
13 National Toxicology Program, Center for the Evaluation of Risks to Human  
14 Reproduction; and

15 (B) the California Environmental Protection Agency, Office of  
16 Environmental Health Hazard Assessment, under the Safe Drinking Water and Toxic  
17 Enforcement Act of 1986, Section 25249.8;

18 (5) chemicals identified as known or likely endocrine disruptors through  
19 screening or testing conducted under protocols developed by the United States Environmental  
20 Protection Agency under 21 U.S.C. 346a(p);

21 (6) chemicals listed on the basis of endocrine-disrupting properties in Annex  
22 XIV, List of Substances Subject to Authorization, Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006 of the  
23 European Parliament concerning the Registration, Evaluation, Authorization and Restriction  
24 of Chemicals, as amended by Regulation (EU) 143/2011 and Regulation (EU) 125/2012;

25 (7) persistent, bioaccumulative, and toxic chemicals identified by

26 (A) the State of Washington, Department of Ecology, in the  
27 Washington Administrative Code, Chapter 173–333; or

28 (B) the United States Environmental Protection Agency in 40 CFR  
29 372; and

30 (8) a very persistent, very bioaccumulative chemical listed in Annex XIV, List  
31 of Substances Subject to Authorization, Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006 of the European

Parliament concerning the Registration, Evaluation, Authorization and Restriction of Chemicals, as amended by Regulation (EU) 143/2011 and Regulation (EU) 125/2012.

\* **Sec. 4.** The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section to read:

TRANSITION: INITIAL DESIGNATION OF PRIORITY CHEMICALS. (a) By January 1, 2016, the Department of Environmental Conservation, in consultation with the Department of Health and Social Services, shall identify and designate at least two chemicals of high concern, or groups of similar chemicals, as priority chemicals under AS 18.31.630, enacted by sec. 1 of this Act.

(b) Before designating the priority chemicals under (a) of this section, the department shall

(1) convene a group that includes representatives of consumer product manufacturers, chemical manufacturers, retailers, trade associations, nonprofit health organizations, business groups, environmental groups, and other affected parties;

(2) invite independent experts with relevant experience with chemicals to participate in the group; and

(3) seek recommendations from the group on the  
(A) development of a protocol to be used for the designation of priority chemicals under AS 18.31.630, enacted by sec. 1 of this Act;

(B) responsibilities, activities, and proposed rules necessary to implement AS 18.31.630, enacted by sec. 1 of this Act; and

(C) issues of concern to the members of the group regarding the implementation of AS 18.31.630, enacted by sec. 1 of this Act.

\* **Sec. 5.** The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section to read:

REVISOR'S INSTRUCTION. Wherever "chapter" appears in AS 18.31.010 - 18.31.500, the revisor of statutes shall substitute "AS 18.31.010 - 18.31.500."