

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE



REPRESENTATIVE GERAN TARR

HB 28

Sponsor Statement

“An Act relating to the disclosure of the ingredients in cosmetics; and providing for an effective date.”

Every day, Alaskans use personal care products with ingredients that have yet to be tested for safety by the federal government. It's a surprise to many to learn that the personal care products industry is largely self-regulated- which leads to insufficient regulatory oversight to protect human health. House Bill 28 ensures consumer protection by requiring cosmetics and personal care products that are sold, manufactured, or distributed within the state of Alaska disclose the full list of ingredients in the product, including the ingredients of fragrances, flavors, and color additives, along with the Chemical Abstracts Service number of each ingredient, on the manufacturer's internet website.

Proper labeling is an important aspect of marketing a cosmetic or personal care product. Labeling is used to help inform consumers of a product's intended use and any related health warnings, its ingredients and quantity of its contents, and its place of manufacture or distribution. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulates cosmetic labeling under the authority of both the Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (FD&C Act) and the Fair Packaging and Labeling Act (FPLA). These laws and their related regulations are intended to protect consumers from health hazards and to help consumers make informed decisions about the personal care products they purchase. Federal regulations require ingredients to be listed on cosmetic product labels in descending order of concentration, but because cosmetic ingredients are often made up of complex chemical substances, the list may be incomprehensible to the product's average user.

Although the FDA has oversight of cosmetic and personal care, they have little legal authority to regulate them beyond requiring that ingredients be included on the product label. They do not currently regulate the chemicals in these products, or even have the authority to issue a mandatory recall if a product is harmful. The FDA has a voluntary program where companies can choose to do things like register and report health issues with their products, but this is not required. This has led to questions about the safety of certain ingredients, lack of clear guidance for companies, and a patchwork of state laws and federal regulations that are not uniform.

House Bill 28 ensures that cosmetics and personal care product companies are transparent with their customers, by requiring companies that sell products we use daily to update their Internet websites with a full list of the ingredients used to make their product.