

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 1879

Introduced by Assembly Members Feuer and Huffman

February 4, 2008

An act relating to hazardous materials.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1879, as introduced, Feuer. Hazardous materials: toxic substances.

Existing law establishes the Department of Toxic Substances Control, in the California Environmental Protection Agency, with powers and duties regarding, among other things, hazardous waste disposal, underground storage of hazardous substances and waste, and the handling and release of hazardous materials.

This bill would declare the intent of the Legislature to ensure public health and safety through the adoption of a science-based approach to evaluating the dangers of toxic chemicals in commerce and by authorizing the Department of Toxic Substances Control to regulate the sale of products containing chemicals known to be hazardous to the health of California citizens and to the environment.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: no.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

- 1 SECTION 1. The Legislature finds and declares all of the
- 2 following:
- 3 (a) Toxic chemicals are inherently hazardous to the health and
- 4 well-being of all Californians.

1 (b) Toxic chemicals from discarded products harm the California
2 environment and diminish the productive economic sectors such
3 as agriculture and tourism.

4 (c) No comprehensive statewide data exists on the use of toxic
5 chemicals, their toxicological properties, or their content in
6 consumer products.

7 (d) Studies, from states where this data exists, show that more
8 toxic chemicals are incorporated into manufactured products than
9 are released into the environment.

10 (e) The United States Environmental Protection Agency
11 estimates that 600 new hazardous wastesites will be added each
12 month to the existing 77,000 sites between now and 2033.

13 (f) Among children, chemical exposures are estimated to
14 contribute to 100 percent of lead poisoning cases, 10 percent to
15 35 percent of asthma cases, 2 percent to 10 percent of certain
16 cancers, and 5 percent to 20 percent of behavioral disorders.

17 (g) Many toxic chemicals accumulate in the tissues of humans
18 and other organisms, putting them at risk of the adverse effects of
19 chronic, long-term exposure, including cancer and reproductive
20 problems.

21 (h) The people and businesses of the state require current,
22 accurate information regarding the characteristics of chemicals
23 and products that they use, so that they can make informed
24 decisions about the products they use and purchase.

25 (i) Advances in scientific knowledge provide opportunities to
26 modernize methods used to test for potential hazards of chemicals
27 to provide better information.

28 (j) It is important to consider all of the health end points that
29 are relevant to the people of the state in the design and
30 implementation of programs for toxic chemicals.

31 SEC. 2. It is the intent of the Legislature to enact legislation
32 to ensure public health and safety through the adoption of a
33 science-based approach to evaluating the dangers of toxic
34 chemicals in commerce and to provide authority to the Department
35 of Toxic Substances Control to regulate the sale of products
36 containing chemicals known to be hazardous to the health of
37 California's citizens and to the environment.