

HB0747 – UNFAVORABLE

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I oppose this bill because it is placing unnecessary restrictions on what is supposed to be a free market. Mercury exists in many other devices, appliances, and products. Are you going to mandate all those be removed as well?

Have fun doing it! You will need to have people line up in state run dental facilities to have their mercury filings removed. Computers still use mercury as do thermometers.

The EPA states “on average, CFLs contain about four milligrams of mercury sealed within the glass tubing. By comparison, older thermometers contain about 500 milligrams of mercury – an amount equal to the mercury in more than 100 CFLs.”

They also state “No mercury is released when the bulbs are intact (i.e., not broken) or in use, but mercury vapor and very small beads of mercury can be released when a CFL is broken.” That bead would be about 4 milligrams less in size than a droplet of water.

In fact if a consumer breaks a CFL, the exposure is minimal and the body handles expelling it fairly efficiently to eliminate any further harm. “Persons in rooms after breakage of a CFL may be exposed to mercury by inhalation and by oral intake. After inhalation, more than 80% of inhaled Hg₀ vapour is absorbed by the lungs. Ingested Hg₀ is poorly absorbed in the gastrointestinal tract (less than 0.01%). Skin absorption is insignificant in relation to human exposure to mercury vapour. The elimination of Hg₀ after inhalation is slow (half-life of inhaled Hg₀ is 60 days) with most being eliminated through urine (as mercury ions) and faeces (as Hg₀). A small amount of absorbed Hg₀ is also eliminated via exhalation and sweat (ATSDR 1992; Goldman and Shannon 2001; Halbach and Clarkson 1978; Houeto et al. 1994).” But remember that 80% is in vapor form at lower concentrations than inhaling gasoline which is much more harmful. Plus there are natural detox mechanisms on the market today that would eliminate it completely.

So again I contend this bill is a direct attack on one sector of the free market of sales and products for consumers.

It is a socialistic agenda of the state controlling consumer’s access to free market products and property. It is an unnecessary, unwarranted mandate and the bill needs to be withdrawn.

Requesting an unfavorable report.

Thank you.

Nelda Fink