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Subcommittees

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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

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HB611- Support
Public Health- Prohibition on Testing Cosmetics on Animals

Chair Pendergrass, Vice Chair of Pena-Melnyk and Committee Members,

HB 611 is introduced to close the loop on prohibiting, with specified exceptions, the sale of cosmetics for which animal testing has been done. Not only is such testing unethical, it is no longer necessary as acceptable, effective, affordable, human-cell-based methods, and computer models exist that are widely, although not universally, used..

HB 611 would better ensure the protection of animals from these often objectively cruel practices by prohibiting the sale in Maryland of cosmetic products for which it is known or should have been known, that the product or any of its components was tested on animals. Reasonable exceptions to the prohibition are made, such as the absence of an acceptable alternative testing method for the purpose, testing of components for non-cosmetic purposes, or a specified human health condition thought to be related to the cosmetic or an ingredient is justified and supported in the detailed study protocol.

Identical legislation passed the Senate in 2020 but ran out of time in the House with our early adjournment. can continue to wait on federal action or we can do ls. Currently, there is no statute in the State of Maryland or in federal law that addresses animal testing, however, many states and countries have enacted bans on animal testing on cosmetics in favor of using other alternatives.

Cruelty-free cosmetics have become the industry standard and it is appropriate that Maryland come on board to ensure its full adoption. No federal mandate exists that requires cosmetic manufacturers to test their products on animals.

This should be an easy yes, and I request a favorable report.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Terri Hill".