

Stop Toxic PFAS: The George “Walter” Taylor Act



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DID YOU KNOW? PFAS are used in a variety of products, including some rugs, food packaging and non-stick pans.

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The threat of “forever chemicals”

A common class of chemicals, per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances, commonly known as PFAS, are used in a variety of products including rugs, food packaging, and non-stick pans. They are also used in some fire fighting foams and manufacturing to make things greaseproof and water resistant.

PFAS are often called ‘forever chemicals’ because they don’t break down in our bodies or our environment, and they have been linked to negative health impacts. When PFAS end up in our food and water, it puts our health at risk. Elevated levels of PFAS in blood has been associated with [health concerns](#), including:

- Cancer;
- Thyroid disruption; and,
- Reduced vaccine response

According to an [August 2020 report from the nation and world’s leading PFAS experts](#) PFAS should be regulated as a class in order to protect health:

“Managing PFAS one-by-one is neither feasible nor cost-efficient. More comprehensive solutions are needed, given that traditional approaches have failed to control widespread exposures to PFAS and resulted in inadequate public health protection. We suggest class-based options to more comprehensively and efficiently reduce PFAS exposure.”

PFAS in Maryland

The Maryland Department of Environment has found PFAS in 75% of the drinking water they have tested. There is known contamination in and around [more than a dozen military sites](#) and in [seafood](#) in Maryland. This fall, the Maryland Department of Environment issued their first [fish consumption advisory for PFAS](#).

Firefighters, active military and their families, and children are most at risk of PFAS exposure, but everyone is at risk. This bill addresses:

- Certain types of **firefighting foam** are a [major source](#) of PFAS contamination but safer PFAS-free foams exist and have been adopted around the U.S. and the world. CA, CO, CT, IL, ME, NH, NY, VT, and WA have all banned the use of firefighting foam containing PFAS.
- PFAS chemicals are sometimes used in **food packaging**. From hamburger wrappers to microwave popcorn bags, safer alternatives already exist. CA, CT, ME, MN, NY, VT, and WA have all banned [food packaging containing PFAS](#).
- **Rugs and carpets** can be treated with PFAS. Manufacturing with PFAS poses environmental, public health, and worker safety concerns. The chemicals can also leach into household dust putting our families at risk. Home Depot and Lowes have stopped selling rugs and carpets with PFAS, and states are following suit, but not fast enough.

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PFAS chemicals have been found in 75% of the drinking water tested by the Maryland Department of the Environment.

DID YOU KNOW? PFAS exposure has been linked to cancer and other severe health problems.

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Senator Elfreth and Delegate Love SB273/HB275

This bill protects Marylanders by restricting the use and disposal of PFAS chemicals.

- Stops the use of PFAS in:
 - Firefighting foam
 - Food packaging
 - Rugs and carpets.
- Requires notification for PFAS in firefighting gear.
- Prevents the mass disposal of PFAS chemicals by incineration and landfilling.



Maryland PIRG | Standing Up To
Powerful Interests

Supporting groups

- Arundel Rivers Federation ♦ Audubon Naturalist Society ♦ Blue Water Baltimore ♦ CCAN Action Fund
♦ Chesapeake Bay Foundation ♦ Clean Water Action ♦ Climate Exchange ♦ Climate Law and Policy Center ♦
Consumer Reports ♦ Do the Most Good Montgomery County ♦ Environmental Working Group
♦ Episcopal Diocese of Maryland ♦ Environment Maryland ♦ Food and Water Watch ♦ Greenbelt Climate Action Network ♦
Interfaith Partners for the Chesapeake ♦ League of Women Voters of Maryland ♦ Maryland Campaign for Environmental Human
Rights ♦ Maryland Conservation Council ♦ Maryland Climate Justice Wing ♦ Maryland League of Conservation Voters
♦ Maryland Legislative Coalition ♦ Maryland Pesticides Education Network ♦ Maryland Public Health Association ♦
Maryland United for Peace and Justice ♦ Maryland PIRG ♦ Maryland Professional Fire Fighters Association
♦ MOM's Organic Market ♦ Pro-Choice Maryland ♦ Natural Resources Defense Council ♦ Public Employees for Environmental
Responsibility ♦ Shore Rivers ♦ Sierra Club Maryland Chapter ♦ St. Mary's River Watershed Association ♦ Strong Future
Maryland ♦ Sunrise Movement ♦ Upper Potomac Riverkeeper ♦ Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of Maryland
♦ Waterkeepers Chesapeake ♦ WISE