



TESTIMONY FOR SB0686

PFAS Chemicals - Product Phase Outs and Registration Requirements

Bill Sponsor: Senator Love

Committee: Education, Energy, and the Environment

Organization Submitting: Maryland Legislative Coalition

Person Submitting: Cecilia Plante, co-chair

Position: FAVORABLE

I am submitting this testimony in favor of SB0686 on behalf of the Maryland Legislative Coalition. The Maryland Legislative Coalition is an association of individuals and grassroots groups with members in every district in the state. We have over 30,000 members across the state.

Humans are pretty good at poisoning everything they touch, including themselves. We are now living with forever chemicals = PFAS. These forever chemicals, which we all know are linked to multiple types of cancer and other health impacts, are in everything.

This bill, if enacted, would help reign in the use of PFAS chemicals. The list of items in the bill that contain PFAS is already frightening. The bill will prohibit -

- on or after January 1, 2028, the sale or distribution of the following products if they have PFAS in them -
 - a cleaning product
 - cookware
 - a cosmetic
 - a personal care product
 - a feminine hygiene product
 - a pet food package or packaging component intended for direct food contact with pet food
 - a juvenile product
 - an intimacy product
- on or after January 1, 2029, the sale or distribution of the following products if they have PFAS in them -
 - a fabric treatment
 - ski wax
 - a textile
 - textile furnishing
 - upholstered furniture
 - paint

It also requires the Department of Agriculture to adopt by January 1, 2027, regulations to identify currently unavoidable uses of PFAS chemicals that are essential for health, safety, or the functioning of society; and for which alternatives are not reasonably available.

Finally, it specifies penalties for any seller or distributor that violates the requirements of this law and it takes the penalties and puts them in a fund that is used for assessing and monitoring PFAS; implementing remediation initiatives; supporting research into PFAS; providing grants and loans to help remediate PFAS; offsetting administrative costs in the monitoring of PFAS; and supporting enforcement measures.

Right now, don't even know how to remediate PFAS, so we are poisoning ourselves without even a backup plan. Clearly the manufacturers and the resellers won't be responsible on their own to remove the chemicals, so we must legislate that responsibility. This cannot happen soon enough.

The Maryland Legislative Coalition supports this bill and we recommend a **FAVORABLE** report in Committee.