

Healthy Legacy

Healthy people,
a clean environment
and a thriving economy

Toxic Free Kids Act of 2014

SF 466 (Eaton) / HF 605 (Winkler)

Healthy Legacy supports a common sense approach to ensuring that all children's products are safe before they end up in stores and our homes. The Toxic Free Kids Act of 2014 will:

- Ensure collection of information which allows consumers to make informed decisions if they wish to avoid children's products that contain Priority Chemicals.
- Provide an incentive for manufacturers to reduce or phase out their use of Priority Chemicals in favor of safer alternatives.

What's the Problem?

Harmful chemicals continue to be found in children's products, even though safer alternatives are available. Toxic chemicals such as formaldehyde, BPA, and phthalates are used in the products our children use every day.

The Minnesota Department of Health generated a list of nine chemicals, known as Priority Chemicals, that are either persistent in our environment and bodies and/or have been found to cause health effects like cancer, reproductive harm or adverse effects on brain development.

Manufacturers are not required to tell the public if they are using a Priority Chemical in their products. Therefore, how are consumer to know if a product is free of toxic chemicals?



Toys



Foam products



Personal care products



Clothing



School supplies



Food containers

Healthy Legacy promotes the production and use of everyday products without toxic chemicals.

healthylegacy.org



Safe products, made safely

What's the Solution?

Require manufacturers to disclose the use of Priority Chemicals in children's products so consumers can make informed decisions.

- **Scope** - The policy would only pertain to products intended for children under 12 years old and targets only the Priority Chemicals identified by the Minnesota Department of Health.
- **Disclosure** - All manufacturers of children's products for children under 12 years old are required to disclose the existence of a Priority Chemical in a children's product being sold in Minnesota.
- **Data Collected** - Manufacturers would be required to tell state agencies which Priority Chemical they are using, in which products, and how many of these products are being sold in Minnesota.
- **Public Education** - Information collected will be used to inform consumers about which products contain Priority Chemicals so they may avoid these products if they wish to do so.

Minnesota's Priority Chemical List

- 1. Bisphenol A (BPA)** is a hormone-disrupting chemical found in polycarbonate plastic used in food packaging.
- 2. Cadmium and lead** are toxic heavy metals still used in inexpensive jewelry and exposure is linked to adverse effects on learning and brain development.
- 3. Formaldehyde** is commonly found in children's shampoo and textiles and exposure is linked to cancer and respiratory problems.
- 4. Phthalates (BBP, DBP, DEHP)** used as softeners in PVC plastic and fragrance-binders in personal care products are hormone-disrupters and exposure is linked to reproductive and respiratory problems.
- 5. Brominated flame retardants (deca-BDE and HBCD)** used in textiles, electronic enclosures and foam products are linked to adverse effects on learning and development.

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Citations for information on this fact sheet available upon request. This fact sheet was printed in-house.



Who is Healthy Legacy?

Healthy Legacy is a public health coalition representing over one million Minnesotans that are dedicated to safe products, made safely. Founded by the Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy and Clean Water Action, our coalition is comprised of 36 diverse organizations. We educate consumers, work with leading businesses and promote protective policies.

Visit healthylegacy.org for a complete list of our coalition partners.