HLS 14RS-407 ORIGINAL

Regular Session, 2014

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HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 145

BY REPRESENTATIVE BADON

CONSUMERS/PROTECTION: Requests a study and policy recommendations concerning the health effects of formaldehyde in children's personal care products at levels currently allowed by law

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2	To urge and request the Department of Health and Hospitals, office of public health, to study
3	and assimilate a report concerning the health effects of formaldehyde in children's
4	personal care products at levels currently allowed by law with policy
5	recommendations for improved practices forty-five days prior to the convening of
6	the 2015 Regular Session of the Legislature of Louisiana.
7	WHEREAS, formaldehyde can be found in a variety of everyday personal care
8	products, including those used by children; and
9	WHEREAS, formaldehyde is considered a human carcinogen by the World Health
10	Organization, a probable human carcinogen by the Environmental Protection Agency, and
11	can also trigger asthma; and
12	WHEREAS, this is of particular concern to young, vulnerable children, where early
13	exposure can cause lung damage and increased vulnerability to other toxins and illnesses
14	throughout the life span of an individual; and
15	WHEREAS, this toxic chemical shows up as a preservative in numerous bubble
16	baths, shampoos, body washes, and other products; and
17	WHEREAS, additional chemicals in these products are released as the formaldehyde
18	breaks down which may increase exposure to even more hazardous toxins; and
19	WHEREAS, model legislation would ban formaldehyde and formaldehyde releasers
20	from personal care products intended for children eighteen and under; and

1	WHEREAS, in order to ensure that this dangerous chemical is not substituted for
2	another toxin, model policy specifies that formaldehyde not be replaced with known or
3	suspected carcinogens, neurotoxins, endocrine disruptors, and other systemic dangers; and
4	WHEREAS, under the proposed policy, manufacturers and wholesalers must
5	abandon the use of formaldehyde by 2015, and retailers must join them by 2016; and
6	WHEREAS, legislation to ban formaldehyde in the personal care products of
7	children was adopted with strong bipartisan support of eighty-five percent of legislators in
8	Minnesota in 2013; and
9	WHEREAS, Minnesota's bill passed with the support of many groups representing
10	physicians, nurses, parents, public health, organized labor, consumers, environmental health,
11	and health-affected communities; and
12	WHEREAS, the European Union banned formaldehyde from certain uses, and
13	requires labeling when it exceeds specified limits; and
14	WHEREAS, formaldehyde has also been identified as a chemical of high concern
15	by the states of Maine, Washington, Minnesota, and California; and
16	WHEREAS, the personal care product market is concerned about the possible
17	hazardous affects of formaldehyde; and
18	WHEREAS, several companies have already taken the proactive step of removing
19	formaldehyde-releasing chemicals from their entire product line; and
20	WHEREAS, there are safer preservatives already on the market, including potassium
21	sorbate and sodium benzoate, and consumer concern and legislative activity are moving the
22	market toward these options.
23	THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
24	urge and request the Department of Health and Hospitals, office of public health, to study
25	and assimilate a report concerning the health effects of formaldehyde in children's personal
26	care products at levels currently allowed by law with policy recommendations for improved
27	practices prior to the convening of the 2015 Regular Session of the Legislature of Louisiana.
28	BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the
29	secretary of the Department of Health and Hospitals.

## **DIGEST**

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

Badon HCR No. 145

Requests a study and policy recommendations concerning the health effects of formaldehyde in children's personal care products at levels currently allowed by law.