

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 2479**

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

***Frank I. Smizik***

*To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:*

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the adoption of the accompanying bill:

An Act to require environmentally safe alternatives to harmful cleaning products.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
<i>Frank I. Smizik</i>	<i>15th Norfolk</i>
<i>Jennifer E. Benson</i>	<i>37th Middlesex</i>
<i>Lori A. Ehrlich</i>	<i>8th Essex</i>
<i>James R. Miceli</i>	<i>19th Middlesex</i>
<i>James B. Eldridge</i>	<i>Middlesex and Worcester</i>
<i>Marjorie C. Decker</i>	<i>25th Middlesex</i>
<i>Jonathan Hecht</i>	<i>29th Middlesex</i>
<i>Louis L. Kafka</i>	<i>8th Norfolk</i>
<i>James J. Dwyer</i>	<i>30th Middlesex</i>
<i>Ruth B. Balsler</i>	<i>12th Middlesex</i>
<i>Solomon Goldstein-Rose</i>	<i>3rd Hampshire</i>
<i>Barbara A. L'Italien</i>	<i>Second Essex and Middlesex</i>
<i>Carolyn C. Dykema</i>	<i>8th Middlesex</i>
<i>Paul R. Heroux</i>	<i>2nd Bristol</i>
<i>Kathleen O'Connor Ives</i>	<i>First Essex</i>
<i>Alice Hanlon Peisch</i>	<i>14th Norfolk</i>
<i>Stephan Hay</i>	<i>3rd Worcester</i>

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 2479**

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By Mr. Smizik of Brookline, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 2479) of Frank I. Smizik and others for legislation to require environmentally safe alternatives to harmful cleaning products. Public Health.

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[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION  
SEE HOUSE, NO. 2067 OF 2015-2016.]

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**In the One Hundred and Ninetieth General Court  
(2017-2018)**  
\_\_\_\_\_

An Act to require environmentally safe alternatives to harmful cleaning products.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:*

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 111 of the General Laws is hereby amended following section 5S  
2 by inserting the following section:-

3 Section 5T.

4 (a) Title. This section shall be referred to as “The Safer Cleaning Products Act”

5 (b) Purpose. The purpose of this section is to reduce asthma and other health threats from  
6 emissions of toxic chemicals from cleaning products used in schools, day care centers, public  
7 buildings, and common areas of public housing.

8 (c) Definitions. For the purposes of this section the following words shall have the  
9 following meanings:

10           “Cleaning product”, a product intended for use for routine cleaning, including but not  
11 limited to general purpose cleaners, bathroom cleaners, glass cleaners, carpet cleaners, floor care  
12 products, and hand soaps.

13           “Commissioner”, the commissioner of the department of public health.

14           “Day care center”, any public or private facility operated on a regular basis whether  
15 known as a day nursery, nursery school, kindergarten, child play school, progressive school,  
16 child development center or preschool, or known under any other name, which receives children  
17 not of common parentage who are not more than six years of age, or who are not more than 21  
18 years of age if such children have special needs, for nonresidential custody and care during part  
19 or all of the day separate from their parents. Day care center shall not include: any part of a  
20 public school system; any part of a private, organized educational system, unless the services of  
21 such system are primarily limited to kindergarten, nursery or related preschool services; periodic  
22 religious instruction classes conducted by a religious institution; a facility operated by a religious  
23 organization where children are cared for during short periods of time while persons responsible  
24 for such children are attending religious services; a family day care home; an informal  
25 cooperative arrangement among neighbors or relatives; or the occasional care of children with or  
26 without compensation.

27           “Environmentally preferable purchasing criteria”, standards for evaluating products such  
28 as those defined by the state Operational Services Division; such standards include but are not  
29 limited to products which are not toxic to humans, and that do not contain any ingredients which  
30 are carcinogens or which are known to cause reproductive toxicity, is not corrosive to the skin or  
31 eyes, is not a sensitizer, is not combustible, does not contribute to the production of

32 photochemical smog, tropospheric ozone depletion, or poor indoor air quality, is not toxic to  
33 aquatic life, does not contain more than 0.5% by weight of total phosphorus, and which does  
34 exhibit biodegradability.

35 “Safer cleaning product”, a cleaning product which is listed on the Safer Cleaning  
36 Product List established by the Department of Public Health pursuant to this section.

37 “Public building”, any building owned, occupied, or used by any public entity including  
38 but not limited to the commonwealth and any county, city, town, or school district.

39 “Public housing”, any federal, state or municipally subsidized housing or housing project.

40 “School”, any educational institution including but not limited to any public or private  
41 elementary, middle, high school, junior college, college, university, school of medicine, or law  
42 school.

43 (d) Product Restrictions. No cleaning product may be used in any school, day care center,  
44 public building, or common area of public housing in Massachusetts unless said cleaning product  
45 is contained on the list of safer cleaning products established by the commissioner pursuant to  
46 this section.

47 (e) Safer Cleaning Products List. No later than January 1 each even numbered year the  
48 commissioner shall prepare and release to the public the safer cleaning products list. Said list  
49 shall include only those cleaning products that:

50 (1) are determined to be an environmentally preferable product by the Massachusetts  
51 Operational Services Division pursuant to the environmentally preferable purchasing criteria;  
52 and

53 (2) do not contain ingredients that the commissioner has determined as asthma-causing  
54 agents (asthmagens) unless a safer alternative is not available; the commissioner may consult  
55 available sources such as the criteria for designating substances as occupational asthmagens and  
56 the list of asthmagens prepared by the Association of Occupational and Environmental Clinics in  
57 making such determinations;

58 (3)The commissioner shall annually review the safer cleaning products list and make  
59 changes as necessary to ensure that the safest available cleaning products are on the list.

60 (f) Training. The division of occupational safety, in consultation with the commissioner,  
61 shall establish a program to require the training of all cleaning personnel in the use and disposal  
62 of the products on the safer cleaning products list in the field, at day care centers, schools, public  
63 buildings, and public housing with the cooperation of the cleaning personnel who actually use  
64 and dispose of the products in the course of their employment. Furthermore, the division of  
65 occupational safety will develop training guidelines and develop a plan for implementation that  
66 ensures training for all custodial staff.

67 (g) Accommodation of Chemically Sensitive Individuals. Nothing in this section shall  
68 preclude an individual from requesting a facility to use or for a facility from using a cleaning  
69 product not on the safer cleaning products list as an accommodation to a person who is  
70 chemically sensitive.

71 (h) Reasonable Fee. The commissioner shall require manufacturers of cleaning products  
72 to pay a reasonable fee to cover the costs for the department to collect and review the requested  
73 information, to develop and maintain the safer cleaning products list, and to support training  
74 programs established by the division of occupational safety according to subsection (f).

75 (i) Penalties. Any facility manager or owner who uses a cleaning product in violation of  
76 this act shall be punished by a fine of not less than five hundred dollars nor more than one  
77 thousand dollars. Any person who sells, or distributes a cleaning product in violation of this act  
78 shall be punished by a fine of not less than one thousand dollars and not more than twenty-five  
79 thousand dollars for each twenty-four hour period during which such violation occurs. The  
80 department of public health may seize any cleaning product held for sale or distribution in  
81 violation of this section. The seized cleaning product shall be forfeited.

82 SECTION 2. Section 1 shall take effect one year from the date of enactment.