2015 -- H 5671

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2015

AN ACT

RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY - MERCURY REDUCTION AND EDUCATION ACT

<u>Introduced By:</u> Representatives Handy, Naughton, Maldonado, Ajello, and Regunberg <u>Date Introduced:</u> February 26, 2015

Referred To: House Environment and Natural Resources

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Sections 23-24.9-2, 23-24.9-3, 23-24.9-9, 23-24.9-10, 23-24.9-10.2, 23-2 24.9-15 and 23-24.9-20 of the General Laws in Chapter 23-24.9 entitled "Mercury Reduction and 3 Education Act" are hereby amended to read as follows: 23-24.9-2. Findings. -- The general assembly has found and hereby declares that: 4 5 (1) Mercury is a persistent and toxic pollutant that bioaccumulates in the environment; 6 (2) Mercury deposition has proven to be a significant problem in the northeastern United States: 7 8 (3) Consumption of mercury-contaminated freshwater fish poses a significant public 9 health threat to the residents of Rhode Island; 10 (4) In order to address these real threats to public health and the environment, the state 11 has been and should continue to actively cooperate with other states in the region to help 12 minimize harm resulting from mercury in food, soil, air and water; 13 (5) According to a 2004 study by the U.S. environmental protection agency titled 14 "International mercury market study and the role and impact of U.S. environmental policy," more 15 than ten percent (10%) of the estimated mercury reservoir in the United States is in thermostats; (6) In 1998, thermostat manufacturers, General Electric, Honeywell, and White Rodgers 16

established the thermostat recycling corporation "(TRC)", a non-profit corporation to facilitate

recycling of mercury thermostats nationwide. The TRC originally operated solely through

1	wholesalers but has since expanded to enable collection by contractors, household hazardous
2	waste facilities, and retailers. The TRC is a voluntary program in all states, but several states
3	require wholesalers to act as collection points for waste mercury thermostats. Participation in the
4	TRC is likely the simplest, least-cost means of complying-;
5	(7) The manufacturers of mercury-containing thermostats, with the cooperation of the
6	department, should be encouraged to submit a single unified plan for the collection of mercury-
7	containing thermostats, the cost of which should be appropriately apportioned between
8	participating manufacturer; and
9	(8) The manufacturers of mercury-containing lamps, with the cooperation of the
10	corporation in collaboration with the department, should be encouraged to submit a single unified
11	plan for the collection of mercury-containing lamps, the cost of which should be appropriately
12	apportioned between participating manufacturers; and
13	(8)(9) The intent of this chapter is to achieve significant reductions in environmental
14	mercury by encouraging the establishment of effective waste reduction, recycling, management
15	and education programs.
16	23-24.9-3. Definitions For the purpose of this chapter:
17	(1) "Component" means a mercury-added product which is incorporated into another
18	product to form a fabricated mercury-added product, including, but not limited to, electrical
19	switches and lamps.
20	(2) "Corporation" means the Rhode Island resource recovery corporation created and
21	established pursuant to chapter 19 of title 23.
22	(3) "Covered entity" means any person who presents to a collection facility that is
23	included in an approved plan:
24	(i) Any number of compact fluorescent mercury-containing lamps; or
25	(ii) Ten (10) or fewer mercury-containing lamps that are not compact fluorescent lamps
26	and are not from a large use application.
27	(2)(4) "Department" means the department of environmental management.
28	(3)(5) "Director" means the director of the department of environmental management or
29	any subordinate or subordinates to whom the director has delegated the powers and duties vested
30	in him or her by this chapter.
31	(4)(6) "Fabricated mercury-added product" means a product that consists of a
32	combination of individual components that combine to make a single unit, including, but not
33	limited to, mercury-added measuring devices, lamps and switches to which mercury or a mercury
34	compound is intentionally added in order to provide a specific characteristic, appearance, or

2	(5)(7) "Formulated mercury-added product" means a product that includes, but is not
3	limited to, laboratory chemicals, cleaning products, cosmetics, pharmaceuticals and coating
4	materials that are sold as a consistent mixture of chemicals to which mercury or a mercury
5	compound is intentionally added in order to provide a specific characteristic, appearance, or
6	quality, or to perform a specific function or for any other reason.
7	(6)(8) "Healthcare facility" means any hospital, nursing home, extended care facility,
8	long-term care facility, clinical or medical laboratory, state or private health or mental institution,
9	clinic, physician's office or health maintenance organization.
10	(7)(9) "Manufacturer" means any person, firm, association, partnership, corporation,
11	governmental entity, organization, combination or joint venture that produces a mercury-added
12	product or an importer or domestic distributor of a mercury-added product produced in a foreign
13	country. In the case of a multi-component mercury-added product, the manufacturer is the last
14	manufacturer to produce or assemble the product. If the multi-component product is produced in
15	a foreign country, the manufacturer is the importer or domestic distributor. In the case of
16	mercury-containing thermostats, the manufacturer is the original equipment manufacturer who
17	sells or sold a mercury-containing thermostat under a brand or label it owns, or is or was licensed
18	to use a mercury-containing thermostat produced by other suppliers.
19	(10) In the case of mercury-containing lamps, the manufacturer is a person who
20	(i) Manufactures or manufactured a mercury-containing lamp under its own brand or
21	label for sale in the state;
22	(ii) Sells in the state under its own brand or label a mercury containing lamp produced by
23	another supplier;
24	(iii) Owns a brand that it license, or licensed to another person for use on a mercury-
25	containing lamp sold in the state;
26	(iv) Imports into the United States for sale in the state a mercury-containing lamp
27	manufactured by a person without a presence in the United States;
28	(v) Manufactures a mercury-containing lamp for sale in the state without affixing a brand
29	name; or
30	(vi) Assumes the responsibilities, obligation, and liabilities of a manufacturer as defined
31	under paragraphs (i) through (v) of this subdivision.
32	(11) "Mercury-containing lamp" means a general purpose lamp to which mercury is
33	intentionally added during the manufacturing process. "Mercury-containing lamp" does not mean
34	a lamp used for medical, disinfection, treatment or industrial purposes.

quality, or to perform a specific function or for any other reason.

1	(b)(12) Mercury-added button cen battery means a button cen battery to which the
2	manufacturer intentionally introduces mercury for the operation of the battery.
3	(9)(13) "Mercury-added novelty" means a mercury-added product intended mainly for
4	personal or household enjoyment or adornment. Mercury-added novelties include, but are not
5	limited to, items intended for use as figurines, adornments, toys, games, cards, ornaments, yard
6	statues and figures, candles, jewelry, holiday decorations, items of apparel (including footwear),
7	or similar products.
8	(10)(14) "Mercury-added product" means a product, commodity, chemical or a product
9	with a component that contains mercury or a mercury compound intentionally added to the
10	product, commodity, chemical or component in order to provide a specific characteristic,
11	appearance, or quality, or to perform a specific function or for any other reason. These products
12	include formulated mercury-added products and fabricated mercury-added products.
13	(11)(15) "Mercury fever thermometer" means a mercury-added product that is used for
14	measuring body temperature.
15	(12)(16) "Mercury-containing thermostat" means a product or device that uses a mercury
16	switch to sense and control room temperature through communication with heating, ventilating,
17	or air-conditions equipment. "Mercury-containing thermostat" includes thermostats used to sense
18	and control room temperature in residential, commercial, industrial, and other buildings, but does
19	not include a thermostat used to sense and control temperature as part of a manufacturing process.
20	(13)(17) "Person" means an individual, trust, firm, joint stock company, corporation
21	(including a government corporation), partnership, association, the federal government or any
22	agency or subdivision thereof, a state, municipality, commission, political subdivision of a state,
23	or any interstate body.
24	(14)(18) "Thermostat retailer" means a person who sells thermostats of any kind directly
25	to homeowners or other nonprofessionals through any selling or distribution mechanism,
26	including, but not limited to, sales using the internet or catalogues. A retailer may also be a
27	wholesaler if it meets the definition of wholesaler.
28	(15)(19) "Thermostat wholesaler" means a person that is engaged in the distribution and
29	wholesale sale of thermostats and other heating, ventilation, and air-conditioning components to
30	contractors who install heating, ventilation, and air-conditioning components.
31	(16)(20) "Contractor" means a person engaged in the business of installation, service, or
32	removal of heating, ventilation, and air-conditioning components.
33	(17)(21) "Qualified contractor" means a person engaged in the business of installation,
34	service, or removal of heating, ventilation, and air-conditioning components who employs seven

1	(7) or more service technicians or installers or who is located in an area outside of an urban area,
2	as defined by the United States bureau of the census.
3	(18)(22) "Local government collections" means collections completed by household
4	hazardous waste facilities, solid waste management agencies, environmental management
5	agencies, or the department of health.
6	23-24.9-9. Disposal ban (a) Except as otherwise provided for in this chapter, after
7	July 1, 2006, no person shall dispose of mercury-added products in a manner other than by
8	recycling or disposal as hazardous waste. Mercury from mercury-added products may not be
9	discharged to water, wastewater treatment, and wastewater disposal systems except when it is
10	done in compliance with local, state, and federal applicable requirements.
11	(b) If a formulated mercury-added product is a cosmetic or pharmaceutical product
12	subject to the regulatory requirements relating to mercury of the federal Food and Drug
13	Administration, then the product is exempt from the requirements of this section.
14	(c) This section shall not apply to: (1) anyone who disposes of a mercury-added button
15	cell battery; or (2) mercury-added components as contained in motor vehicles except as provided
16	in subdivision 23-24.9-10(b)(2) and in accordance with such regulations as may be adopted by
17	the department in order to achieve the purposes of subdivision 23-24.9-10(b)(2); and (3)
18	households disposing of lamps and products containing lamps.
19	(d) The restrictions on the disposal of mercury-added components in motor vehicles shall
20	be as set forth in subsection (a) of this section effective January 1, 2006, and shall be
21	implemented as provided for in subdivision (c)(2) of this section and subdivision 23-24.9-
22	10(b)(2).
23	(e) The restrictions on amalgam waste recycling and disposal shall be implemented as
24	provided for in § 23-24.9-9.3.
25	(f) Any contractor who replaces a mercury-containing thermostat from a building shall
26	recycle the thermostat using its own collection container provided by thermostat manufacturers,
27	or deliver the mercury-containing thermostat to an appropriate wholesaler, retailer or local
28	government collection for recycling.
29	(g) Any contractor who demolishes a building shall remove any mercury-containing
30	thermostats from the building prior to demolition and shall deliver the mercury-containing
31	thermostats to an appropriate wholesaler, retailer or collection location for recycling.
32	(h) Any person who replaces a mercury-containing thermostat from any location in the

state that is participating in an energy efficiency and/or weatherization program supported or

administered in whole or in part by any department, agency, instrumentality, or political

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subdivision of the state or conducted as a result of any statutory requirement, including but not

limited to, demand-side management pursuant to, household hazardous waste drop-off event §

3 39-2-1.2, or least-cost procurement pursuant to § 39-1-27.7, shall deliver the mercury-containing

4 thermostats to an appropriate wholesaler, retailer or collection location for recycling.

(i) After January 1, 2018, the ban will apply to disposal of mercury-containing lamps.

23-24.9-10. Collection of mercury-added products. -- (a) After January 1, 2006, no mercury-added product shall be offered for final sale or use or distribution for promotional purposes in Rhode Island unless the manufacturer, either on its own or in concert with other persons, has implemented a system, after review and approval of the corporation in collaboration with the director, for the convenient and accessible collection of such products when the consumer is finished with them. Where a mercury added product is a component of another product, the collection system must provide for removal and collection of the mercury added component or collection of both the mercury added component and the product containing it. Mercury-added components in motor vehicles shall be collected and recycled as provided for in § 23-24.9-10.2. Mercury-containing lamps from covered entities shall be collected and recycled as provided for in subsection (b)(4) of this section.

- (b) (1) This section shall not apply to the collection of mercury-added button cell batteries or mercury added lamps or products where the only mercury contained in the product comes from a mercury-added button cell battery or a mercury-added lamp; and
- (2) Mercury-added components in motor vehicles at end-of-life shall be collected and recycled as provided in this subsection. Significant, willful failure to comply with rules and/or regulations to implement the provisions of this section shall constitute, as may be determined by the department, a violation of the ban established in § 23-24.9-9. No scrap recycling facility or other person that receives a flattened, crushed or baled end-of-life vehicle shall be deemed to be in violation of subdivision 23-24.9-10(b)(2) and rules and regulations pursuant thereto or § 23-24.9-9 if a mercury switch is found in the vehicle after its acquisition.

For the purposes of subdivision 23-24.9-10(b)(2) the following terms shall have the following meanings: (i) "Capture rate" means the annual removal, collection, and recovery of mercury switches, as a percentage of the total number of mercury switches available for removal from end-of-life vehicles as determined by the department of environmental management. Capture rate shall not include mercury switches that are inaccessible due to significant damage to the motor vehicle in the area where the mercury switch is located; (ii) "Mercury added component" or "Mercury switch" means a mercury-added convenience light switch assembly or

- capsule from an end-of-life motor vehicle; (iii) "Scrap recycling facility" means a fixed location
 where machinery and equipment are utilized for processing and manufacturing scrap metal into
 prepared grades and whose principal product is scrap iron, scrap steal, or nonferrous metallic
 scrap for sale for remelting purposes; and (iv) "Vehicle recycler" means and individual or entity
 licensed under the provisions of § 42-14.2-3 that engages in the business of acquiring,
 dismantling, parts recycling from, or destroying six (6) or more end-of-life vehicles in a calendar
 year.
 - (A) Manufacturers of motor vehicles sold in Rhode Island that contain mercury switches shall, individually or collectively, establish and implement a collection program for mercury switches to achieve a capture rate of not less than fifty percent (50%) for calendar year 2006, and not less than seventy percent (70%) for calendar year 2007 and each calendar year thereafter through calendar year 2017.

- (B) The department shall develop, issue, administer and enforce regulation compelling the manufacturers of motor vehicles sold in Rhode Island that contain mercury switches to undertake a collection program as set forth in this subparagraph, 23-24.9-10(b)(2)(B). The department shall determine that the capture rate in each year of the program and shall access whether any failure to achieve the capture rate was the result of a force-majeure. The department shall report publicly on or before March 31, each year its findings with regard to the capture rate during the prior year. The manufacturer or manufacturers shall pay the total cost of the removal, replacement, collection and recovery system for mercury switches, under this subparagraph, 23-24.9-10(b)(2)(B), to the vehicle recycler or scrap recycling facility that removed the switch. The total cost shall include, but not be limited to a minimum of five dollars (\$5.00) for each mercury switch removed by a vehicle recycler or by a scrap recycling facility, as partial compensation for the labor and other costs incurred in the removal of the mercury switch.
- (3) The provisions of subdivision 23-24.9-10(b) (2) shall satisfy collection programs and disposal requirements for mercury switches for all motor vehicles sold in the state.
- (4) Effective January 1, 2017, manufacturers of mercury-containing lamps sold in Rhode Island shall, individually or collectively, establish and implement a statewide collection program, approved by the corporation in collaboration with the department, for the recycling of mercury-containing lamps from covered entities.
- 31 (i) The recycling program required under this subsection must include:
- 32 (A) Convenient collection locations located throughout the state where mercury33 containing lamps from covered entities can be dropped off without cost, including, but not limited
 34 to, municipal collection sites and participating retail establishments;

I	(B) Handling and recycling equipment and practices in compliance with the universal
2	waste rules;
3	(C) Effective education and outreach, including, but not limited to, point-of-purchase
4	signs and other materials provided to retail establishments without costs.
5	(ii) A manufacturer required to implement a statewide collection program under this
6	subsection shall submit its proposed recycling program for review and approval by the
7	corporation in collaboration with the department. The corporation shall solicit public comment
8	on the proposed program before approving or denying the program.
9	(iii) Beginning April 1, 2017, a manufacturer not in compliance with this section is
10	prohibited from offering any mercury-containing lamp for final sale in the state or distributing
11	any mercury-containing lamp in the state. A manufacturer not in compliance with this section
12	shall provide support to retailers to ensure the manufacturer's mercury-containing lamps are not
13	offered for sale, sold at final sale or distributed in the state.
14	(iv) Beginning April 1, 2017, a retailer may not offer for final sale a mercury-containing
15	lamp produced by a manufacturer not in compliance with this section.
16	(v) Beginning in 2018, and biennially thereafter, the corporation shall report to the
17	general assembly on any modifications to the manufacturer recycling programs it intends to make
18	to improve mercury-containing lamp recycling rates and any recommendations for statutory
19	changes needed to facilitate mercury-containing lamp collection and recycling.
20	(vi) Manufacturers of mercury-containing lamps sold in Rhode Island shall individually
21	or collectively enter into an agreement with the corporation to reimburse for reasonable costs
22	directly related to administering the program but not to exceed the cost of less than one full-time
23	equivalent employee.
24	23-24.9-10.2. Mercury-containing thermostats (a) Manufacturer responsibility
25	Each thermostat manufacturer that has offered for final sale, sold at final sale, or has distributed
26	mercury-containing thermostats in Rhode Island shall, individually or collectively:
27	(1) No later than November 1, 2010, submit a detailed description of a collection
28	program for mercury thermostats that meets the requirements of this section to the department.
29	The department shall have thirty (30) days from the date of submittal to review and provide
30	comment on the program. The final program description shall be submitted to the department no
31	later than December 31, 2010.
32	(2) On or after January 1, 2011, make collection containers available to all qualified
33	contractors, thermostat wholesalers, thermostat retailers, and local government collections in this
34	state that request a container. Each thermostat manufacturer shall with each container include

information regarding the proper management of mercury containing thermostats as universal waste in accordance with the collection program and the department's rules.

- (3) Establish a system to collect, transport, and properly manage out-of-service mercury thermostats from all collection sites established under this section.
- (4) Not include any fees or other charges to persons participating in the program, except that each thermostat wholesaler, qualified contractor, local government collection, or thermostat retailer that is provided with one or more collection containers may be charged a one-time program administration fee not to exceed seventy-five dollars (\$75.00) per collection container.
- (5) From January 1, 2011, through December 31, 2014 conduct education and outreach efforts including, but not limited to: (i) Promoting the availability of collection containers to qualified contractors, wholesalers, thermostat retailers, and units of local government in this state: (ii) Educating contractors, homeowners and other interested persons on the importance of properly managing out-of-service mercury thermostats and opportunities for the collection of those thermostats and the availability of manufacturer supported program(s): (iii) Providing signage to participating collection locations that can be prominently displayed to promote the collection and recycling of out-of-service mercury thermostats to contractors and consumers; and (iv) Written materials or templates of materials for reproduction by participating wholesalers and thermostat retailers to be provided to customers at the time of purchase or delivery of a thermostat. These materials shall include, but not limited to, information on the importance of properly managing out-of-service mercury thermostats and opportunities for the collection of those thermostats.
- (6) For calendar year 2011, collect at least two thousand (2000) mercury thermostats taken out-of-service in the state during the calendar year. For calendar year 2012, the goal shall be to collect at least two thousand two hundred fifty (2,250) mercury thermostats. For calendar year 2013 and 2014, the goal shall be to collect at least two thousand five hundred (2,500) mercury thermostats taken out-of-service in the state during each calendar year.
- (7) Beginning in 2012, submit an annual report to the department by March 1, of each year that includes, at a minimum, all of the following:
- (i) The number of mercury-containing thermostats collected and recycled by that manufacturer pursuant to this section during the previous calendar year;
- 31 (ii) The estimated total amount of mercury contained in the thermostat components 32 collected by that manufacturer pursuant to this section in the previous calendar year;
- 33 (iii) An elevation of the effectiveness of the manufacturer's collection program;
 - (iv) An accounting of the administrative costs incurred in the course of administering the

collection and recycling program; and

- 2 (v) A list of locations that participate as collection sites.
- 3 (b) Department responsibilities.
- 4 (1) Collection points. The department shall maintain and post on their website a list of 5 units of local government, thermostat retailers and any other locations that are collection points 6 for mercury thermostats.
 - (2) Education outreach. In conjunction with the educational and outreach programs implemented by manufacturers, the department shall conduct an education and outreach program directed toward wholesalers, retailers, contractors, and homeowners to promote the collection of out-of-service mercury-containing thermostats.
 - (3) Rate of collection. For calendar year 2015 through 20202017 and every year thereafter that the program is in place, the collection goals shall be established by the department by regulation. The department shall establish collection goals no later than November 1, 20142016. In developing collection goals, the department shall take into account, at a minimum: (i) The effectiveness of collection programs for out-of-service mercury thermostats in the state and other states; (ii) Collection requirements in other states; (iii) Any reports or studies on the number of out-of-service mercury thermostats that are available for collection in this state, other states, and nationally; and (iv) Department estimates of mercury-added thermostats that become waste annually based on Rhode Island data that is verified by a statistically valid sampling of Rhode Island residential properties and businesses; and (v) Other factors. Prior to establishing the collection goals, the department shall consult with stakeholder groups that include, at minimum, representatives of thermostat manufacturers, environmental groups, thermostat wholesalers, contractors, and thermostat retailers.
 - (4) Modifications to collection programs. Modifications required by the department may include, but not be limited to, improvements to outreach and education conducted under the collection program, expansion of the number of collections sites established under the program, and modification of the roles of participants. Modifications that may include a five dollar (\$5) incentive in the form of either cash or a coupon offered by the manufacturer to contractors and consumers for each out-of-service mercury thermostat returned to a collection site may not be considered prior to January 1, 2014. In the event that the department determines that a program shall be modified, the department shall consult with thermostat manufacturers, thermostat wholesalers, thermostat retailers, service contractors, environmental groups and municipalities to develop the revisions to the program. If the program is modified to include a financial incentive, the department may exempt local government collections from the financial incentive provision.

2	42-35, ("The Administrative Procedures Act").
3	23-24.9-15. State procurement preferences for low or nonmercury-added products
4	<u>-</u> (a) Notwithstanding other policies and guidelines for the procurement of equipment, supplies,
5	and other products, the Rhode Island department of administration shall by January 1, 2003,
6	revise its policies, rules and procedures to implement the purposes of this chapter.
7	(b) The Rhode Island department of administration shall give priority and preference to
8	the purchase of equipment, supplies, and other products that do not contain mercury-added
9	compounds or components, unless there is no economically feasible nonmercury-added
10	alternative that performs a similar function. In circumstances where a nonmercury-added product
11	is not available, preference shall be given to the purchase of products that contain the least
12	amount of mercury-added to the product necessary for the required performance.
13	(c) State dental insurance contracts negotiated after January 1, 2003, shall provide
14	coverage for non-mercury fillings at no additional expense to the state employee.
15	(d) Mercury-containing lamp purchasing. When making purchasing decisions on
16	mercury-containing lamps, the Rhode Island department of administration shall request
17	information on mercury content, energy use, lumen output and lamp life from potential suppliers
18	and shall issue specifications and make purchasing decisions that favor models at comparable
19	cost with high energy efficiency, lower mercury content and longer lamp life. Information
20	obtained on mercury content, energy use and lamp life must be made available by the Rhode
21	Island department of administration to other purchasers who purchase a large number of mercury-
22	containing lamps. This information must also be posted on the state's publicly accessible website.
23	(e) Extra consideration shall be given to those vendors who provide substitute
24	information on non-mercury lamps like light-emitting diode (LED) that have the same price,
25	specifications lumen output and lamp life of what is being sought in the bid abstract.
26	23-24.9-20. Regulations The department shall promulgate rules and regulations as
27	may be necessary to implement and carry out the provisions of this chapter.
28	SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

Any modifications made to the collection program shall be subject to the provisions of chapter

LC001308

EXPLANATION

BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

OF

AN ACT

RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY $\,$ - MERCURY REDUCTION AND EDUCATION ACT

This act would require manufacturers of mercury-containing lamps to establish and implement a statewide collection for the recycling of mercury-containing lamps.

This act would take effect upon passage.

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