

April 21, 2005

H 1531. MERCURY REDUCTION AND EDUCATION. *TO REDUCE THE QUANTITY OF MERCURY THAT IS RELEASED INTO THE ENVIRONMENT, THAT IMPACTS NATURAL RESOURCES, AND THAT HARMS THE PUBLIC HEALTH OF THE CITIZENS OF THE STATE.* Enacts new Article 9, part 6 of GS Chapter 130A (Mercury Reduction and Education Act of 2005).

Prohibits the sale or distribution of a mercury-added novelty. Prohibits the sale or distribution of a manometer to measure blood pressure or a thermometer, if it contains mercury. Requires manufacturer of any of these items to notify retailers about these provisions and how to properly dispose of remaining inventory. Exempts thermometers and manometers used for certain commercial and medical applications. Prohibits the sale or installation of a thermostat containing mercury unless the manufacturer conducts or participates in a thermostat recovery or recycling program in accordance with federal law. Prohibits the sale or distribution of motor vehicles of model year 2009 or later containing an automotive mercury switch. Effective January 1, 2008.

Prohibits the knowing sale of a fluorescent lamp containing mercury unless it bears a label that bears certain information or is in compliance with the labeling requirements of another state. Exempts products containing mercury-added lamps.

Directs the Department of Administration to give priority and preference to purchasing products that contain no mercury-added compounds unless there is no economically feasible alternative performing a similar function, or the product reduces electric consumption by at least 40% and there is no alternative that saves the same or a greater amount of electricity. Effective January 1, 2007.

Prohibits a school from purchasing bulk elemental mercury compounds for use in teaching. Directs all schools to remove and properly dispose of all bulk elemental mercury and mercury compounds used as teaching aids, not including barometers, with a goal of completing the task by July 1, 2009. Appropriates \$200,000 from the General Fund to the Department of Public Instruction for each fiscal year of the 2005-07 biennium for the removal and disposal program.

Directs Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) to develop educational materials on the hazards caused by the release of mercury and on proper disposal methods for mercury products. Appropriates \$100,000 from the General Fund to the DENR for 2005-06 for this purpose.

All substantive sections of bill for which no effective date is otherwise specified become effective January 1, 2006.

Intro. by Harrison, Bordsen.

Ref. to Environment and Natural Resources

GS 130A, APPROP