

SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That:

(a) On or before October 1, 2007, the Department of the Environment shall study and report to the Governor and in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, the Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee and the House Environmental Matters Committee regarding the Statewide collection, reclamation, and recycling of all products that contain mercury, including:

(1) current collection, reclamation, and recycling programs for each of these products, who administers these programs and how they are organized, and to what extent the current collection of hazardous materials covers mercury-added products;

(2) current and planned incentives and pilot programs designed to improve Maryland's rate of exclusion of mercury-added products from the landfill and incinerator waste streams, including advance disposal fees, manufacturer "take back" programs, the use of bounties, and residential collection;

(3) current and planned efforts to educate the general public regarding the health and environmental impacts of mercury-added products in comparison with similar products that do not contain mercury;

(4) a summary of measures utilized in other states regarding items (1) through (3) of this subsection and projections regarding the probable level of effectiveness of these measures in Maryland; and

(5) departmental recommendations for actions or programs related to items (1) through (3) of this subsection.

(b) In preparing the report and recommendations required under subsection (a) of this section, the Secretary of the Environment shall convene and consult with an advisory group of interested stakeholders, including at least two ~~individuals representing~~ representatives from each of the following:

- (1) manufacturers of mercury-added products;
- (2) persons engaged in the retail sale of mercury-added products;
- (3) waste collectors;
- (4) the environmental community; ~~or~~ and
- (5) the health care community.

(c) If the Secretary appoints a regulated lobbyist to serve as a member of the advisory group convened under subsection (b) of this section, the lobbyist is not subject to the provisions of § 15-504(d)(1) or § 15-703(f)(3)(i) of the State Government Article.

SECTION 4. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That Sections 1 and 2 of this Act shall take effect October 1, 2007.