

~~a product that contains brominated flame retardants unless certain persons have submitted a certain notice to the Maryland Department of the Environment; requiring certain information to be included in the required notice; establishing certain exemptions from certain notice requirements; requiring, on or after a certain date, certain products containing a brominated flame retardant to be labeled in a certain manner; prohibiting, on or after a certain date, the manufacture, processing, selling, or distributing of certain products that contain a certain amount of certain brominated flame retardants; exempting certain products that contain a certain amount of certain brominated flame retardants under certain circumstances from the prohibition providing that the prohibition does not apply to certain processing of certain recyclables or certain manufacturer replacement service parts or other products; requiring the Department, on or before a certain date, to adopt certain regulations that establish a fee on certain products that contain brominated flame retardants; authorizing the Department to adopt certain regulations; authorizing the Department to enforce certain prohibitions; establishing certain penalties; defining certain terms; requiring a certain report on or before a certain date; and generally relating to the use of brominated flame retardants.~~

BY adding to

Article – Environment

Section 6–1201 through 6–1205, inclusive, to be under the new subtitle “Subtitle 12. Brominated Flame Retardants”

Annotated Code of Maryland

(1996 Replacement Volume and 2004 Supplement)

Preamble

~~WHEREAS, Chemicals To meet stringent fire safety standards, manufacturers add chemicals known as brominated flame retardants (BFRs) are widely used in the State. To meet stringent fire standards, manufacturers add BFRs to a multitude of products, including the plastic housing of electronics and computers, circuit boards, and the foam and textiles used in furniture; and~~

~~WHEREAS, Polybrominated diphenyl ether (PBDE), which is a subcategory of BFRs, has increased fortyfold in human breast milk since the 1970s; and~~

~~WHEREAS, PBDE has the potential to disrupt thyroid hormone balance and contribute to a variety of developmental deficits, including low intelligence and learning disabilities. PBDE may also have the potential to cause cancer; and~~

~~WHEREAS, Substantial efforts to eliminate BFRs from products have been made throughout the world, including both the private and public sectors. These efforts have made numerous alternatives available that are safe to human health while meeting stringent fire standards. To meet market demand, it is in the interest of Maryland manufacturers to eliminate the use of BFRs; and~~

~~WHEREAS, In order to protect the public health and environment, the General Assembly believes it is necessary for the State to develop a precautionary approach~~