



S.3296-C (THOMPSON, ET AL.) A.6919-B (ENGLEBRIGHT, ET AL.)

Summary

This bill would amend New York's Environmental Conservation Law to prohibit the manufacture, distribution and sale of certain toys and products containing bisphenol A (BPA) intended for use by children under three years of age. Additionally, the use of BPA would be prohibited in food and beverage containers, or containers lined with other materials containing BPA for children under the age of 14. This bill requires manufacturers to use the least toxic alternative to BPA and establishes certain fees.

Explanation

According to a study published by the Friends of Earth Europe, BPA has been measured in freshwater, seawater, landfill sludge, and air and dust particles. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control have found that 95 percent of Americans have detectable levels of BPA in their bodies. Most are at or above concentrations known to cause adverse effects in laboratory studies. Research studies have also found that babies have up to eleven times higher levels of BPA in their bodies than adults because of greater exposure and reduced capacity to metabolize the toxic chemical. BPA is a known estrogen-mimicking endocrine disruptor, which is linked to heart disease, Type-2 diabetes, immune system disruption, brain deterioration, cancer and obesity.

The requirement that BPA substitutes should be the least toxic alternative available helps ensure that one known toxic chemical will replace another. Manufacturers have already begun reducing use of the chemical. The gas and chemical manufacturer Sunoco has begun restricting sales of this controversial chemical which is used in their baby bottles and food containers. BPA is banned in baby bottles in Canada and leading U.S. manufacturers are making BPA-free baby bottles. Banning BPA in such products, as well as those primarily consumed by children, is critical to protect New York's children, as well as the health of the environment.

Memo 19

Environmental Advocates of New York supports this bill.