



Senate

General Assembly

File No. 17

February Session, 2002

Substitute Senate Bill No. 359

Senate, March 8, 2002

The Committee on Public Health reported through SEN. HARP of the 10th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING THE SUPPLY OF POTASSIUM IODIDE TABLETS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2002*) The Department of
2 Public Health shall procure and maintain a stockpile of adequate
3 supplies of potassium iodide tablets for use in the emergency planning
4 zone surrounding the Millstone 3 nuclear power generating facility
5 established by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission in the event of an
6 occurrence, incident or other abnormal circumstance involving the
7 release of radiation or other radiological hazards that may have a
8 significant adverse effect on the health or safety of the people of this
9 state. The Commissioner of Public Health shall adopt regulations, in
10 accordance with chapter 54 of the general statutes, regarding the
11 circumstances and manner of distribution of such potassium iodide
12 tablets to the public.

This act shall take effect as follows:	
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2002</i>

PH *Joint Favorable Subst.*

The following fiscal impact statement and bill analysis are prepared for the benefit of members of the General Assembly, solely for the purpose of information, summarization, and explanation, and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either House thereof for any purpose:

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Fund-Type	Agency Affected	FY 03 \$	FY 04 \$
General Fund - See Below	Department of Public Health	See Below	See Below
General Fund - See Below	Military Department	See Below	See Below

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

In February 2002 Connecticut formally requested 450,000 potassium iodide (“KI”) tablets from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, which offered federal resources for this purpose in a letter to states issued in December 2001. Delivery is anticipated in Spring 2002. The Governor has designated the Office of Emergency Management (OEM) within the Military Department as the lead state agency for this initiative. Planning related to the distribution of these tablets in the Millstone 3 emergency planning zone is currently being coordinated by the Office of Policy and Management (OPM). The Department of Public Health (DPH) participates in this planning process along with other state agencies.

The bill requires DPH, effective 10/1/02, to procure and stockpile sufficient potassium iodide tablets for use in the same Millstone 3 emergency planning zone. Should the supply held by OEM be deemed to meet this requirement then there would be no additional

procurement costs for the state. However, if the bill is interpreted to require the DPH to maintain supplies which are distinct from those held by OEM, an FY 03 cost of approximately \$90,000 will result (given an estimated cost per tablet of 20¢). Absent a nuclear emergency, these costs would not be expected to recur until FY 08 or later since FDA-approved potassium iodide tablets have a shelf life of at least five years.

Should the adopted regulations call for the advance distribution of KI dosages to either individuals or organizations in the affected geographic area, the agency will incur costs of approximately \$104,000 annually to reflect the annual salary of one nurse consultant, one support staff and associated other expenses. These positions will be needed to track the distribution of KI tablets and monitor demographic changes to ensure continued availability of appropriate proportions of adult and children's dosages in the emergency zone.

It is anticipated that the Department will be able to adopt regulations regarding the distribution of potassium iodide tablets within its normally budgeted resources.

OLR Bill Analysis

sSB 359

AN ACT CONCERNING THE SUPPLY OF POTASSIUM IODIDE TABLETS**SUMMARY:**

This bill requires the Department of Public Health (DPH) to stockpile an adequate supply of potassium iodide tablets for use in the emergency planning zone surrounding the Millstone 3 nuclear power facility as established by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. These tablets are for use if there is an occurrence, incident, or other abnormal circumstance involving radiation release or other radiological hazard that may have a serious health and safety effect on people.

DPH must adopt regulations on how and under what circumstances the tablets will be publicly distributed.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2002

BACKGROUND***Potassium Iodide***

This form of potassium is recommended for use following exposure to radioactive iodides downwind from a nuclear reactor accident. The idea is that it would block the uptake of radioactive iodides by the thyroid gland, thus preventing or decreasing the chance of developing cancer of the thyroid in later years.

Emergency Planning Zones

The emergency planning zone (EPZ) is a 10-mile distance from the nuclear power plant, as established by Nuclear Regulatory Commission and Federal Emergency Management Agency regulations. The EPZ covers more than 300 square miles around each nuclear power plant.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Public Health Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 21 Nay 0