



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 353

February Session, 2006

Substitute House Bill No. 5445

House of Representatives, April 4, 2006

The Committee on Environment reported through REP. ROY of the 119th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING WARNINGS REGARDING MERCURY IN FISH AND SHELLFISH.

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) Not later than October 1,
2 2006, the Commissioner of Public Health shall develop a consumer
3 notice about mercury in fish and shellfish, which shall be made
4 available to the public and posted on the Department of Public
5 Health's web site on the Internet. Such consumer notice shall contain
6 (1) information about the nutritional value of fish and shellfish, (2) a
7 warning about the harmful effects of mercury in pregnant and nursing
8 women, women who may become pregnant and young children, (3)
9 advice about the types of fish and shellfish that pregnant and nursing
10 women, women who may become pregnant and young children
11 should avoid, and (4) toll-free telephone numbers and Internet web
12 site addresses that consumers may access for additional information
13 about the risks of mercury in fish and shellfish, including, but not
14 limited to: The federal Food and Drug Administration's Food

15 Information Hotline, the federal Food and Drug Administration's Food
16 Safety web site, the federal Environmental Protection Agency's Fish
17 Advisory web site and the Department of Public Health's web site.

18 (b) No grocery or food store, as defined in section 22-38b of the
19 general statutes, shall sell fish or shellfish to consumers in this state,
20 unless the owner or operator of the store has posted the consumer
21 notice developed pursuant to subsection (a) of this section in a vertical
22 display in close proximity to the fish or shellfish being sold.

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|---|---------------------|-------------|
| This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections: | | |
| Section 1 | <i>from passage</i> | New section |

ENV *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: None

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The Department of Public Health will be able to develop the required consumer notice, make it available to the public and post it on the department's web site without requiring additional resources.

The Out Years

State Impact: None

Municipal Impact: None

OLR Bill Analysis
sHB 5445

AN ACT CONCERNING WARNINGS REGARDING MERCURY IN FISH AND SHELLFISH.

SUMMARY:

This bill requires the Department of Public Health (DPH) commissioner to develop a consumer notice about mercury in fish and shellfish by October 1, 2006. The notice must be available to the public and posted on the department's Internet web site.

The notice must contain:

1. information about the nutritional value of fish and shellfish;
2. a warning about the harmful effects of mercury in pregnant and nursing women, women who may become pregnant, and young children;
3. advice about the types of fish and shellfish that pregnant and nursing women, women who may become pregnant, and young children should avoid; and
4. toll-free telephone numbers and Internet web site addresses that consumers may access for additional information about the risks of mercury in fish and shellfish, including the federal Food and Drug Administration's Food Information Hotline and Food Safety web site, the federal Environmental Protection Agency's Fish Advisory web site, and the Department of Public Health's web site.

The bill prohibits any store from selling fish or shellfish to Connecticut consumers unless they have posted, vertically, the DPH notice near the fish and shellfish they sell.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

BACKGROUND

DPH Consumer Mercury Notice

DPH's current "Connecticut's Fish Consumption Advisory and the Safe Eating of Fish Caught in Connecticut" website has available links to web pages containing (1) a safe eating guide on Connecticut fish; (2) advice for women and families who eat fish; and (3) a warning for people and families who eat fish, including a warning with pictures of specific fish. (The warning to people and families who eat fish caught in Connecticut is viewable in English, Spanish, Kmer, Lao, Vietnamese, and H'mong.)

COMMITTEE ACTION

Environment Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 28 Nay 0 (03/16/2006)