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## **OLR Bill Analysis**

### **sSB 915**

#### ***AN ACT CONCERNING THE CHEMICAL INNOVATIONS INSTITUTE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT AND THE PROHIBITION ON BISPHENOL-A IN INFANT FORMULA AND BABY FOOD CONTAINERS, JARS AND CANS.***

#### **SUMMARY:**

This bill delays, from October 1, 2011 through October 1, 2012, the ban in current law on manufacturing, selling, offering for sale, or distributing infant formula or baby food stored in plastic containers, jars, or cans that contain bisphenol-A (BPA). It allows people who can prove they purchased these containers before October 1, 2012 to sell or distribute their existing inventory until the earlier of (1) October 1, 2013 or (2) the Food and Drug Administration approving an acceptable alternative to BPA for use in such containers, jars, or cans. The quantity purchased or acquired before October 1, 2012 must be comparable to the containers, jars, or cans purchased or acquired during the same period of the prior year.

The bill also limits the ban to only containers, jars, and cans with BPA that comes into contact with infant formula or baby food. It specifies that infant formula and baby food are considered to be free of BPA if the level of BPA is not quantifiable when measured by an analytical methodology published by the World Health Organization and Health Canada.

Additionally, the bill makes the commissioners of public health, environmental protection, and consumer protection ex-officio members of the UConn Health Center's (UCHC) Chemical Innovations Institute's board of directors. It requires the Department of Higher Education (DHE) to study (1) the institute's role in making recommendations regarding chemical and toxin-related policies and (2) how research institutes within U.S. colleges and universities are

funded. DHE must submit a report on the study by January 1, 2012 to the Higher Education and Environment committees.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2011, except the sections concerning the Chemical Innovations Institute are effective upon passage.

## **BACKGROUND**

### ***Bisphenol-A***

BPA is an industrial chemical used to make hard, clear plastic known as polycarbonate, which is used in many consumer products, including reusable baby bottles and on the inside of metal-based food and beverage cans.. Animal studies have found it to have reproductive and developmental toxicity.

### ***Chemical Innovations Institute***

The Chemical Innovations Institute must (1) foster green job growth and safer workplaces through clean technology and green chemistry and (2) assist businesses, state agencies, and nonprofit organizations seeking to use alternatives to harmful chemicals.

The institute and UCHC must seek administrative funding from federal entities. Both may seek funding from nongovernmental foundations, including health access foundations, private citizens, corporations, and governmental entities.

UCHC must develop, implement, and promote the institute unless there is, in the aggregate, insufficient federal, state, and private funding to pay for the initial and continuing expenses of the institute.

## **COMMITTEE ACTION**

Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 18 Nay 0 (03/03/2011)