
OLR Bill Analysis

sSB 837

AN ACT CONCERNING THE USE OF PERFLUOROALKYL OR POLYFLUOROALKYL SUBSTANCES IN CLASS B FIREFIGHTING FOAM.

SUMMARY

This bill prohibits a person, local government, or state agency from using a class B firefighting foam with intentionally added perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substance (“PFAS”) in any amount for training purposes. Under the bill, class B firefighting foam is used to extinguish flammable liquid fires and PFAS is a class of fluorinated organic chemicals containing at least one fully fluorinated carbon atom.

The bill also prohibits, beginning April 1, 2021, using this foam for any firefighting purposes unless (1) the fire is petroleum-based and (2) the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) commissioner did not identify an alternative to the foam by January 1, 2021. Because the commissioner did not identify an alternative by that date, the foam may still be used for petroleum-based fires under the bill.

By October 1, 2021, the bill requires the DEEP commissioner to develop or identify a take-back program for municipal PFAS sources that applies best management practices for their disposal.

Lastly, the bill authorizes DEEP to enforce the bill’s provisions, within available appropriations.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

COMMITTEE ACTION

Environment Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 32 Nay 0 (02/26/2021)