

S 3697

Mercury Use Reduction Act of 2012

Congress: 112 (2011–2013, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Environmental Protection

Introduced: Dec 19, 2012

Current Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

Latest Action: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works. (Dec 19, 2012)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/112th-congress/senate-bill/3697>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Whitehouse, Sheldon [D-RI]

Party: Democratic • **State:** RI • **Chamber:** Senate

Cosponsors (4 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Kerry, John F. [D-MA]	D · MA		Dec 19, 2012
Sen. Lautenberg, Frank R. [D-NJ]	D · NJ		Dec 19, 2012
Sen. Leahy, Patrick J. [D-VT]	D · VT		Dec 19, 2012
Sen. Merkley, Jeff [D-OR]	D · OR		Dec 19, 2012

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Environment and Public Works Committee	Senate	Referred To	Dec 19, 2012

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Environmental Protection

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
112 HR 6686	Identical bill	Dec 19, 2012: Referred to the Subcommittee on Environment and the Economy.

Mercury Use Reduction Act of 2012 - Amends the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) to redefine “mercury” as: (1) elemental mercury, (2) a mercury compound, and (3) a mixture that contains elemental mercury or a mercury compound that is mixed with any other material.

Prohibits, beginning on January 1, 2014, the: (1) production of mercury from the extraction, beneficiation, and processing of mercury-containing ores and minerals (specifies that such prohibition does not prohibit the production of mercury from mining of other ores if the mercury is produced incidentally from the beneficiation or processing of that ore or related pollution control activities); (2) production of vinyl chloride monomer using a mercury-added feedstock or catalyst; (3) manufacturing, processing, or distribution in commerce of certain mercury-added measuring devices, a mercury-added pesticide, a mercury-added thermostat, or a mercury-added relay or mercury-added switch; and (4) export of certain mercury compounds or such mercury-added products.

Prohibits, beginning on January 1, 2015, the: (1) manufacturing, processing, or distribution in commerce of a mercury-added battery, individually or as a component of a product; and (2) exporting of such mercury-added batteries.

Sets forth exemptions to such prohibitions.

Amends the Mercury-Containing and Rechargeable Battery Management Act to repeal provisions concerning phasing out the use of batteries that contain mercury.

Requires the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to: (1) report on the use of mercury to produce polyurethane products; (2) publish an inventory of mercury supply, use, and trade by April 1, 2014, and every three years thereafter; and (3) publish a list of such compounds the export of which is prohibited. Establishes reporting requirements for manufactures of mercury or mercury-added products and manufacturers that intentionally use mercury in a manufacturing process.

Authorizes elemental mercury to be stored on a long-term basis at a facility for which a permit has been issued for that purpose under the Solid Waste Disposal Act. Exempts such long-term storage from prohibitions on hazardous waste disposal under such Act.

Actions Timeline

- **Dec 19, 2012:** Introduced in Senate
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