

NJ Bill Calls for Drycleaning Study

Legislation introduced in the New Jersey Senate ([Senate Bill 1585](#)) would require the state's Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to conduct a study of alternative drycleaning solvents and technologies before imposing additional controls on the use of perchloroethylene by the state's 1,600 cleaners. The bill, cosponsored by Senate Majority Leader Stephen Sweeney and Environment Committee member John Adler, responds to concerns raised by the drycleaning industry about the [DEP's proposal to phase out perchloroethylene](#) use in the state.

SB 1585 was introduced in early April and referred to the Senate Environment Committee. A Committee hearing on the proposal scheduled for early May was postponed because of concerns over proposed amendments suggested by the Committee chair. The hearing has not yet been rescheduled.

SB 1585 is one of four separate proposals that have been introduced in the state Legislature since DEP proposed the phaseout last December. A fifth proposal, a companion bill to SB 1585, is expected to be introduced in the Assembly in the near future. In the meantime, HSIA is hopeful that the considerable amount of legislative interest will persuade DEP to reconsider their proposal



Canada Identifies Siloxanes As Toxic

Environment Canada and Health Canada recently published preliminary findings of toxicity for 11 chemicals identified as high priorities for action under Canada's Chemicals Management Plan. Among the chemicals identified as toxic are three silicon products – [octamethylcyclotetrasiloxane \(D4\)](#), [decamethylcyclopentasiloxane \(D5\)](#), and [dodecamethylcyclohexasiloxane \(D6\)](#). Most notable among these three is D5 which is used in a wide variety of personal care products and as a dry-cleaning fluid.

While concluding that current levels of the three silicon chemicals do not constitute a danger to human life or health, Environment Canada finds that current levels of the chemicals entering the environment “may have an immediate or long-term harmful effect on the environment.” The assessment further finds that D4, D5, and D6 meet the criteria for “persistence” and “bioaccumulation potential” as set out in Canada's Persistence and Bioaccumulation Regulations. As a result, the Departments of Health and Environment propose that the chemicals be designated as toxic under the Canadian Environmental Protection Act (CEPA) and propose the implementation of virtual elimination of the three products under the Act.

“Our initial assessment shows that . . . these chemicals should be kept out of our environment, and as a result we will be working with stakeholders to stop the release of these substances at the source,” explained Environment Minister John Baird in a [press release accompanying publication of the preliminary findings](#). Comments on the proposal are due by July 16.

Environment Canada and Health Canada have added 85 chemicals, or chemical groups, to the [list of toxic substances](#) since 1999, including perchloroethylene, trichloroethylene, and methylene chloride. Of these, only 10 substances have been

(continued on page 2)

