

STATE OF NEW YORK

4038

2023-2024 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

February 2, 2023

Introduced by Sen. KAVANAGH -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Environmental Conservation

AN ACT to amend the environmental conservation law, in relation to disposal of mercury-containing lamps and manufacturer collection and recycling programs

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

1 Section 1. Section 27-2113 of the environmental conservation law, as
2 added by chapter 145 of the laws of 2004, subdivision 1 as amended by
3 chapter 676 of the laws of 2005, is amended to read as follows:

4 § 27-2113. Exemptions.

5 [~~1.~~] The provisions of this title shall not apply to photographic film
6 and paper, pharmaceutical products, biological products or any substance
7 that may be lawfully sold over the counter without a prescription under
8 the federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act, 21 USC 301 et seq. For the
9 purposes of this subdivision, "biological product" means a virus, thera-
10 peutic serum, toxin, antitoxin, vaccine, blood, blood component or
11 derivative, allergenic product or an analogous product, or arsphenamine,
12 or any other trivalent organic arsenic compound used for the prevention,
13 treatment or cure of a disease or condition of human beings.

14 [~~2. The provisions of subdivision one of section 27-2105 of this title~~
15 ~~shall not apply to mercury-containing lamps discarded by households.~~

16 ~~3. The provisions of subdivision one of section 27-2105 of this title~~
17 ~~shall not apply to mercury-containing lamps discarded by a small busi-~~
18 ~~ness if such small business discards no more than fifteen mercury-con-~~
19 ~~taining lamps per month. For the purposes of this subdivision "small~~
20 ~~business" means any business which is resident in this state, independ-~~
21 ~~ently owned and operated, not dominant in its field, and employing not~~
22 ~~more than one hundred individuals.]~~

23 § 2. The environmental conservation law is amended by adding a new
24 section 27-2121 to read as follows:

EXPLANATION--Matter in italics (underscored) is new; matter in brackets
[-] is old law to be omitted.

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1 § 27-2121. Mercury lamp collection program.

2 1. Definitions. "Producer" means a person that:

3 (a) Has or had legal ownership of the brand, brand name or co-brand of
4 a mercury-containing lamp sold in or into this state;

5 (b) Imports or has imported mercury-containing lamps; or

6 (c) Makes or made an unbranded mercury-containing lamp that is sold or
7 has been sold in or into this state.

8 2. Producer responsibilities. (a) Every producer of mercury-containing
9 lamps sold in or into this state shall, individually or collectively,
10 and not later than June first, two thousand twenty-five, submit a plan
11 to the department for approval that describes a collection program for
12 out-of-service mercury-containing lamps. The collection program shall
13 not involve any direct cost to households or small businesses for
14 participating in the program. The collection program shall at a minimum
15 include: the identity of collection, transportation and processing
16 service providers, including consideration given to existing residential
17 curbside collection infrastructure and mailback systems as an appropri-
18 ate collection mechanism; how mercury and other hazardous substances
19 will be handled for collection through final disposition; the use of any
20 third party organizations that may conduct all or part of the collection
21 and recycling program, and the specific responsibilities of each such
22 organization; and an education and outreach program.

23 Collection methods may include, but are not limited to, (i) individual
24 product mail return and/or multiple collection containers and collection
25 sites located at retailers, municipalities for collection at household
26 hazardous waste collection facilities, or household hazardous waste
27 events; (ii) the distribution of containers for mercury-containing lamp
28 collection; and (iii) criteria to ensure that the capture rate of out-
29 of-service mercury-containing lamps is maximized.

30 (b) Not later than December first, two thousand twenty-five, producers
31 of mercury-containing lamps shall implement the collection program
32 outlined in their plan.

33 (c) Beginning June first, two thousand twenty-six, and annually there-
34 after, each producer of mercury-containing lamps shall submit a report
35 to the department that includes, at a minimum, the following informa-
36 tion:

37 (i) the number of mercury-containing lamps collected and recycled by
38 the producer during the previous calendar year;

39 (ii) the estimated total amount of mercury contained in the lamp
40 components collected by that producer in the previous calendar year;

41 (iii) an evaluation of the effectiveness of the producer's collection
42 program and any financial incentives; and

43 (iv) an accounting of the administrative costs incurred in the course
44 of administering the collection and recycling program and any financial
45 incentive plan.

46 3. Department responsibilities. (a) Within ninety days of receipt of a
47 complete producer plan required by subdivision two of this section, the
48 department shall review such plan and approve, deny or approve with
49 modifications each plan submitted. The department shall not approve a
50 plan unless all elements of subdivision two of this section are
51 adequately addressed. In reviewing a plan, the department may consider
52 the consistency of the plan with collection in other states and consider
53 consistency between producer programs. In reviewing plans, the depart-
54 ment shall ensure that education and outreach programs are uniform and
55 consistent to ensure ease of implementation.

1 (b) The department shall maintain and post on its website a list of
2 entities and locations that serve as collection points for mercury-con-
3 taining lamps.

4 (c) In conjunction with the educational and outreach programs imple-
5 mented by producers, the department may conduct an education and
6 outreach program directed at retailers and homeowners to promote the
7 collection of discarded mercury-containing lamps.

8 (d) By December first, two thousand twenty-six, and annually thereaft-
9 er, the department shall post a report on its website detailing the
10 collection and recycling of mercury-containing lamps in the state. Such
11 report shall include an evaluation of the effectiveness of the
12 collection and recycling programs, and information on actual collection
13 rates.

14 § 3. This act shall take effect immediately, provided however that
15 section one of this act shall take effect January 1, 2024.