

1 H.56

2 Introduced by Representative Donahue of Northfield

3 Referred to Committee on

4 Date:

5 Subject: Conservation; mercury management; labeling mercury-added
6 products

7 Statement of purpose: This bill proposes to require the agency of natural
8 resources to develop a comprehensive public education, outreach, and
9 assistance program regarding the presence of mercury in compact fluorescent
10 bulbs, the health hazards of mercury in compact fluorescent bulbs, how to
11 address properly a broken compact fluorescent bulb, and where and how to
12 dispose properly of compact fluorescent bulbs.

13 An act relating to consumer education regarding the presence of mercury in
14 compact fluorescent bulbs

15 It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

16 Sec. 1. 10 V.S.A. § 7112 is amended to read:

17 § 7112. PUBLIC EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

18 (a) The agency and the department of health, in concert with other relevant
19 state agencies, may implement a comprehensive public education, outreach,
20 and assistance program for households, hazardous waste generators,

1 municipalities, and solid waste management districts, small businesses, health
2 care facilities, scrap metal facilities, dismantlers, institutions, schools, and
3 other interested groups. These public education, outreach, and assistance
4 programs should focus on the hazards of mercury, particularly those associated
5 with the consumption of fresh and saltwater fish; the requirements and
6 obligations of individuals, manufacturers, and agencies under this chapter; and
7 voluntary efforts that individuals, institutions, and businesses can undertake to
8 help further reduce mercury in the environment. These programs may also
9 provide information to retailers, wholesalers, and the public on what products
10 contain mercury, including those considered to be banned novelty items under
11 section 7105 of this title; information on possible nonmercury alternatives; and
12 information on products that do contain mercury, but may be environmentally
13 beneficial. The agency shall cooperate with manufacturers of mercury-added
14 products and other affected businesses in the development and implementation
15 of any public education and technical assistance programs. The agency and the
16 department of health may assist the municipalities and solid waste
17 management districts in developing, designing, and disseminating information
18 for the public about mercury-added products, the requirements of the law
19 regarding the source separation of waste mercury-added products, and the
20 collection programs that are available to the public, including any
21 manufacturer-based reverse distribution system. A component of this

1 information may be directed specifically at large public and private institutions
2 that use and discard substantial numbers of waste mercury-added products and
3 at any other large users of those products.

4 (b) The agency shall cooperate with neighboring states and provinces and
5 regional organizations in the northeastern United States and Canada to develop
6 any outreach, assistance, and education programs, where appropriate.

7 (c) The agency may develop an awards program to recognize the
8 accomplishments of manufacturers, municipalities, solid waste management
9 facilities, solid waste recycling facilities, household hazardous waste collection
10 facilities, citizens, or others who go beyond the minimum requirements
11 established under this chapter, and excel at reducing or eliminating mercury in
12 air emissions, solid waste, and wastewater discharges.

13 (d) The agency shall develop a comprehensive public education, outreach,
14 and assistance program regarding the presence of mercury in compact
15 fluorescent bulbs, the health hazards of mercury in compact fluorescent bulbs,
16 how to address properly a broken compact fluorescent bulbs, and where and
17 how to dispose properly of compact fluorescent bulbs.

18 Sec. 2. LABELING OF COMPACT FLUORESCENT BULBS

19 On or before January 15, 2010, the secretary of natural resources shall
20 report to the house committee on fish, wildlife and water resources, the senate
21 committee on natural resources and energy, the house committee on human

1 services, and the senate committee on health and welfare with
2 recommendations for improving the current mercury-added product labeling
3 requirements for compact fluorescent bulbs. The recommendations shall
4 address methods for altering the labeling requirements in 10 V.S.A. § 7106 for
5 mercury-added products in order to improve consumer awareness of the
6 presence of mercury in compact fluorescent bulbs, provide guidance on the
7 proper method of cleanup of broken compact fluorescent bulbs, and identify
8 methods and locations for proper disposal.