

ASSEMBLY, No. 2015

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

INTRODUCED MAY 13, 1996

By Assemblywoman BUONO, Assemblymen LANCE and  
Barnes

1 AN ACT concerning mercury pollution, and supplementing parts of the  
2 Revised Statutes.

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4 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*  
5 *of New Jersey:*

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7 1. a. The Department of Health, in consultation with the  
8 Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences Institute, shall,  
9 within 180 days of the effective date of this act and pursuant to the  
10 "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et  
11 seq.), develop and adopt maximum allowable mercury emissions limits  
12 protective of human health with special attention given to particularly  
13 susceptible or sensitive groups including, but not limited to, pregnant  
14 women, women of childbearing age, and children, from the following  
15 sources: municipal solid waste incinerators, medical waste  
16 incinerators, sewage sludge incinerators, hazardous waste incinerators,  
17 and coal burning boilers.

18 b. The Department of Health, in consultation with the  
19 Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences Institute, shall,  
20 within 180 days of the effective date of this act and pursuant to the  
21 "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et  
22 seq.), develop and adopt maximum allowable mercury concentration  
23 standards protective of human health with special attention given to  
24 particularly susceptible or sensitive groups including, but not limited  
25 to, pregnant women, women of childbearing age, and children, for  
26 sewage sludge approved for beneficial use.

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28 2. a. The Department of Environmental Protection shall implement  
29 and enforce the standards adopted by the Department of Health  
30 pursuant to section 1 of this act.

31 In the event that the Department of Environmental Protection has  
32 adopted regulations prior to the effective date of this act for a specific  
33 source of mercury emissions or for sewage sludge approved for  
34 beneficial use for which the Department of Health has adopted  
35 standards pursuant to section 1 of this act, the Department of  
36 Environmental Protection shall implement the more stringent standard.

1       b. In order to provide for compliance of the mercury emission  
2 standards, the Department of Environmental Protection may require  
3 sources of mercury emissions to submit plans and specific timetables  
4 for the removal of consumer batteries, fluorescent light bulbs,  
5 thermometers, and thermostats from the incoming processible solid  
6 waste stream. As a component of this plan submission, each county  
7 shall prepare an inventory of potential generators of the mercury  
8 materials of concern, such as jewelers, hospitals, and large industrial  
9 buildings and prepare plans for facilitating separate collection or drop-  
10 off of these materials.

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12       3. This act shall take effect immediately.

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#### STATEMENT

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17       This bill would direct the Department of Health, in consultation  
18 with the Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences Institute  
19 (EOSHI), to develop maximum allowable mercury emissions limits  
20 protective of human health with special attention given to particularly  
21 susceptible or sensitive groups including, but not limited to, pregnant  
22 women, women of childbearing age, and children, from the following  
23 sources: municipal solid waste incinerators, medical waste  
24 incinerators, sewage sludge incinerators, hazardous waste incinerators,  
25 and coal burning boilers. The bill would also direct the Department of  
26 Health, in consultation with EOSHI, to develop maximum allowable  
27 mercury concentration standards for sewage sludge approved for  
28 beneficial use protective of human health giving special attention to  
29 sensitive groups. The EOSHI is a program jointly sponsored by the  
30 University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey - Robert Wood  
31 Johnson Medical School and Rutgers, the State University.

32       The Department of Environmental Protection would be directed to  
33 implement and enforce the standards developed by the Department of  
34 Health. In order to provide for compliance of the mercury emission  
35 standards, the Department of Environmental Protection may require  
36 sources of mercury emissions to submit plans and specific timetables  
37 for the removal of consumer batteries, fluorescent light bulbs,  
38 thermometers, and thermostats from the incoming processible solid  
39 waste stream. As a component of this plan submission, each county  
40 shall prepare an inventory of potential generators of the mercury  
41 material materials of concern, such as jewelers, hospitals, and large  
42 industrial buildings and prepare plans for facilitating separate  
43 collection or drop-off of these materials.

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3 Requires the development of mercury emission and mercury  
4 concentration standards.