

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 94

Session of
2009

INTRODUCED BY PICKETT, PHILLIPS, MAJOR, BAKER, BOBACK, COHEN,
CREIGHTON, CRUZ, FLECK, FRANKEL, GEORGE, GILLESPIE, GINGRICH,
HELM, HENNESSEY, KIRKLAND, KORTZ, MARKOSEK, McILVAINE SMITH,
MELIO, MILLARD, MOUL, MURT, PAYNE, PETRARCA, PYLE, RAPP,
READSHAW, ROHRER, SIPTROTH, K. SMITH, STEVENSON, SWANGER,
TRUE, VULAKOVICH, YOUNGBLOOD, GEIST, WANSACZ, BRIGGS AND
CALTAGIRONE, FEBRUARY 24, 2009

AS AMENDED, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, APRIL 28, 2009

A RESOLUTION

1 Urging the Congress of the United States and the Food and Drug
2 Administration to encourage the use of reduced bisphenol-A in
3 the manufacture of plastic food containers and bottles and to
4 eliminate the importation, sale and advertising of
5 polycarbonate baby bottles.

6 WHEREAS, Bisphenol-A (BPA) is one of the most extensively
7 tested materials in use today and has been used in consumer
8 products and researched and studied for more than 40 years; and

9 WHEREAS, BPA is an industrial chemical used to make hard,
10 lightweight, heat-resistant, clear plastic, known as
11 polycarbonate, that is used in many consumer products, including
12 CDs, DVDs, electrical and electronic equipment, automobiles,
13 sports safety equipment, reusable food and drink containers,
14 such as reusable water and baby bottles, and in components of
15 lifesaving medical equipment; and

16 WHEREAS, BPA is also found in epoxy resins used in products
17 like electrical laminates for printed circuit boards,

1 composites, paints, adhesives, a variety of protective coatings
2 and as a protective lining on the inside of metal-based food and
3 beverage cans to maintain the quality of the contents; and

4 WHEREAS, The use of polycarbonate plastic and epoxy resins
5 for food contact applications has been and continues to be
6 recognized as safe by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA),
7 the European Food Safety Authority, the Japanese Ministry for
8 Health, Labor and Welfare and other regulatory authorities
9 worldwide; and

10 WHEREAS, While an extensive body of well-documented and well-
11 reviewed scientific studies on BPA already provides strong
12 reassurances that there is no basis for human health concerns
13 from exposure to low doses of BPA, recent media reports have
14 raised concerns about the safety and use of polycarbonate
15 plastic and epoxy resins, including Canada's announcement of a
16 possible ban on baby bottles containing BPA, which is both
17 confusing and frightening to the public; and

18 WHEREAS, Canada has advised its citizens that BPA does not
19 pose a risk to the general population, including adults,
20 teenagers and children, and that consumers can continue to use
21 polycarbonate water bottles and consume canned foods and bottled
22 beverages packaged in containers containing low doses of BPA;
23 and

24 WHEREAS, Canada has turned its focus to newborns and infants,
25 concluding that early development may be sensitive to the
26 effects of even low doses of BPA; and

27 WHEREAS, The Canadian study has determined that these low
28 levels of BPA may impact the health of newborns and infants
29 under 18 months through the migration of BPA from polycarbonate
30 products, like baby bottles and the epoxy resin linings of

1 infant formula cans; and

2 WHEREAS, The FDA, the premier food safety agency in the
3 United States that has been and continues to be actively engaged
4 in the critical review of emerging data on BPA, does not
5 recommend that consumers discontinue using products containing
6 BPA but advises concerned consumers that several alternatives to
7 polycarbonate baby bottles are readily available to them,
8 including glass bottles; and

9 WHEREAS, The FDA has formed an agency-wide BPA task force to
10 review current research and any new information on BPA for all
11 FDA-regulated products; and



12 WHEREAS, The FDA task force is reviewing the concerns
13 presented in the National Toxicology Program Draft Brief,
14 published April 14, 2008, by the National Institute of Health,
15 the concerns presented in the Canadian draft risk assessment
16 released in April 2008 and are coordinating closely with Health
17 Canada, the Canadian Ministry of the Environmental and Minister
18 of Health; and

19 WHEREAS, It is important that the FDA move as quickly as
20 possible to undertake this review, because the results will help
21 to better inform the public; therefore be it

22 RESOLVED, That the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of
23 Pennsylvania urge Congress and the FDA to work with the industry
24 to reduce the level of BPA in plastic food containers and
25 bottles and the linings of cans and find alternative
26 technologies to BPA; and be it further

27 RESOLVED, That the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of
28 Pennsylvania urge that, until the FDA task force review is
29 completed or until conclusive evidence is presented on the
30 effects of BPA on early development in newborns and infants

1 under 18 months of age, the FDA adopt a position of caution by
2 eliminating the importation, sale and advertising of
3 polycarbonate baby bottles; and be it further

4 RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to
5 the ACTING Commissioner of the Food and Drug Administration, 
6 ~~Andrew C. von Eschenbach, M.D.~~ JOSHUA M. SHARFSTEIN, M.D., the 
7 presiding officers of each house of Congress and to each member
8 of Congress from Pennsylvania.