



Legislation Summary: Phases out almost all allowed uses, manufacture or import of all classes of PFAS into MA

An Act to protect Massachusetts public health from PFAS

Initial bill number(s): HB2197 /SB1356

Sponsors: Rep. Kate Hogan, Sen. Julian Cyr

What the bill does, why LWVMA supports or opposes it, and the League position relative to this bill.

The LWVMA supports this bill.

This bill broadly implements the recommendations of the April 2022 PFAS Interagency Task Force. While these chemicals, Perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), were banned from manufacture in the USA 2015, the fact is they are still incorporated into innumerable consumer products. These are the single biggest toxic chemical threat we face as a nation and they are ubiquitous. Everything that is water or stain resistant or repellent uses them. Artificial turf has them and it sheds. The most important part of the bill is that it “turns off the tap” of toxic PFAS by banning its use in almost all products. These chemicals have been determined to cause testicular cancer, a very difficult standard, and are associated with many other health problems.

These chemicals have been determined by the EPA to be toxic, and in parallel with efforts such as this, Massachusetts is working towards a tight detection limit for these chemicals in the water supply. Providing safety all of our citizens and providing upstream elimination of harmful contaminants is good human and environmental policy.

The broad LWVUS position on Natural Resources states that: Pollution of these resources should be controlled in order to preserve the physical, chemical and biological integrity of ecosystems and to protect public health. LWVUS, Impact On Issues, p. 13

At the state level, the LWVMA supported the Waste Management Act of 1985, which established that surface and ground waters all are part of one system that needs to safeguarded. The PFAS contamination of our bodies and then our water bodies is a serious issue.

