

111TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2775

To prohibit, as a banned hazardous substance, certain household dishwashing detergent containing phosphorus.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 9, 2009

Mr. HIGGINS (for himself, Mr. HINCHEY, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, and Ms. MCCOLLUM) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

A BILL

To prohibit, as a banned hazardous substance, certain household dishwashing detergent containing phosphorus.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. FINDINGS.**

4 Congress finds that—

5 (1) phosphorus loading of surface waters can
6 stimulate the growth of weeds and algae, and that
7 such growth can have adverse environmental, health,
8 and aesthetic effects;

9 (2) household detergents contribute to phos-
10 phorus loading, and limits on detergents containing

1 phosphorus can significantly reduce the discharge of
2 phosphorus into the surface and ground waters;

3 (3) household detergents containing no or very
4 low phosphorus are readily available, and over 30
5 percent of the United States population lives in
6 areas with a ban on detergents containing phos-
7 phorus;

8 (4) phosphorus limits on household detergents
9 can significantly reduce treatment costs at those
10 sewage treatment facilities that remove phosphorus
11 from the waste stream;

12 (5) while significant reductions of phosphorus
13 from laundry detergent have been accomplished
14 without Federal regulation, similar progress in re-
15 ducing phosphorus contributions from dishwashing
16 detergents has not been achieved; and

17 (6) detergents containing no or very low phos-
18 phorus are not readily available for commercial and
19 industrial use, and this Act is not intended to affect
20 the sale or distribution of such items.

21 **SEC. 2. PHOSPHORUS IN DISHWASHING DETERGENT.**

22 (a) REGULATION AS A BANNED HAZARDOUS SUB-
23 STANCE.—Not later than 270 days after the date of enact-
24 ment of this Act, the Consumer Product Safety Commis-
25 sion, pursuant to section 3 of the Federal Hazardous Sub-

1 stances Act (15 U.S.C. 1262), shall issue regulations de-
2 claring dishwashing detergent intended for individual
3 household use that contains phosphorus to be a banned
4 hazardous substance under such Act.

5 (b) DEFINITION.—As used in this Act and for pur-
6 poses of the regulations required under subsection (a), the
7 term “dishwashing detergent intended for individual
8 household use” means any soap or detergent marketed for
9 the purpose of washing dishes and intended for use in indi-
10 vidual households.

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