

BY REPRESENTATIVE BADON

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2 To urge and request the Department of Health and Hospitals, office of public health, to study

3 and assimilate a report concerning the health effects of formaldehyde in children's

4 personal care products at levels currently allowed by law with policy

5 recommendations for improved practices forty-five days prior to the convening of

6 the 2015 Regular Session of the Legislature of Louisiana.

7 WHEREAS, formaldehyde can be found in a variety of everyday personal care

8 products, including those used by children; and

9 WHEREAS, formaldehyde is considered a human carcinogen by the World Health

10 Organization, a probable human carcinogen by the Environmental Protection Agency, and

11 can also trigger asthma; and

12 WHEREAS, this is of particular concern to young, vulnerable children, where early

13 exposure can cause lung damage and increased vulnerability to other toxins and illnesses

14 throughout the life span of an individual; and

15 WHEREAS, this toxic chemical shows up as a preservative in numerous bubble

16 baths, shampoos, body washes, and other products; and

17 WHEREAS, additional chemicals in these products are released as the formaldehyde

18 breaks down which may increase exposure to even more hazardous toxins; and

19 WHEREAS, model legislation would ban formaldehyde and formaldehyde releasers

20 from personal care products intended for children eighteen and under; and

1 WHEREAS, in order to ensure that this dangerous chemical is not substituted for
2 another toxin, model policy specifies that formaldehyde not be replaced with known or
3 suspected carcinogens, neurotoxins, endocrine disruptors, and other systemic dangers; and

4 WHEREAS, under the proposed policy, manufacturers and wholesalers must
5 abandon the use of formaldehyde by 2015, and retailers must join them by 2016; and

6 WHEREAS, legislation to ban formaldehyde in the personal care products of
7 children was adopted with strong bipartisan support of eighty-five percent of legislators in
8 Minnesota in 2013; and

9 WHEREAS, Minnesota's bill passed with the support of many groups representing
10 physicians, nurses, parents, public health, organized labor, consumers, environmental health,
11 and health-affected communities; and

12 WHEREAS, the European Union banned formaldehyde from certain uses, and
13 requires labeling when it exceeds specified limits; and

14 WHEREAS, formaldehyde has also been identified as a chemical of high concern
15 by the states of Maine, Washington, Minnesota, and California; and

16 WHEREAS, the personal care product market is concerned about the possible
17 hazardous affects of formaldehyde; and

18 WHEREAS, several companies have already taken the proactive step of removing
19 formaldehyde-releasing chemicals from their entire product line; and

20 WHEREAS, there are safer preservatives already on the market, including potassium
21 sorbate and sodium benzoate, and consumer concern and legislative activity are moving the
22 market toward these options.

23 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
24 urge and request the Department of Health and Hospitals, office of public health, to study
25 and assimilate a report concerning the health effects of formaldehyde in children's personal
26 care products at levels currently allowed by law with policy recommendations for improved
27 practices prior to the convening of the 2015 Regular Session of the Legislature of Louisiana.

28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the
29 secretary of the Department of Health and Hospitals.

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

Badon HCR No. 145

Requests a study and policy recommendations concerning the health effects of formaldehyde in children's personal care products at levels currently allowed by law.