



KING COUNTY

1200 King County Courthouse
516 Third Avenue
Seattle, WA 98104

Signature Report

February 28, 2012

Motion 13641

Proposed No. 2012-0072.2

Sponsors Phillips

1 A MOTION expressing support for measures that amend
2 the Children's Safe Products Act by banning certain toxic
3 flame retardants in products designed for children, and
4 requiring assessment of alternatives to other chemicals of
5 concern, being considered by the Washington state
6 Legislature.

7 WHEREAS, parents and caregivers of young children acknowledge the special
8 responsibility they have for assuring children's physical wellbeing, including the duty to
9 protect them from exposure to harmful products and toxic substances, and

10 WHEREAS, in carrying out such responsibility, parents and caregivers place trust
11 in product manufacturers for consideration of safety and health concerns in the
12 production of consumer products widely available through major retail outlets,
13 particularly those intended for use in service to children, and

14 WHEREAS, a recent assessment of children's products purchased from major
15 retailers, such as car seats, bassinette pads, changing pads and nursing pillows, has found
16 that, of the twenty items tested, seventeen showed evidence of the presence of toxic flame
17 retardants, and

18 WHEREAS, the most frequently detected chemical among these flame retardants
19 is a chemical known as "chlorinated TRIS," which has been declared a carcinogen by the

20 state of California, and was removed from children's pajamas several decades ago after
21 laboratory studies found it could cause mutations, and

22 WHEREAS, this assessment was reported on by the Washington Toxics Coalition
23 and Safe States in a report entitled Hidden Hazards in the Nursery, January 2012, and

24 WHEREAS, the report indicated further that these toxic flame retardants are used
25 to treat polyurethane foam that was present in all of the products tested, and that the toxic
26 flame retardants are not chemically bound to the foam, and therefore can escape into the
27 home environment and settle on surfaces, and

28 WHEREAS the report described young children's heightened vulnerability to the
29 effects of household toxics exposure, because their biological systems are still in early
30 development, and because they spend more time near floors where household dust can
31 gather and be ingested through the frequent hand-to-mouth contact that is characteristic
32 of young children, and

33 WHEREAS, the report notes that some manufacturers currently employ
34 alternatives to the use of toxic fire retardants for children's products, demonstrating that
35 there are viable nontoxic options available, and

36 WHEREAS, the report also describes the potential of toxic chemicals from
37 consumer products to make their way into the region's natural environment and
38 accumulate in waterways and in the tissue of local species of fish and wildlife, and

39 WHEREAS, state governments are at the forefront of efforts to protect children
40 from the effects of such toxics by requiring manufacturers to limit or eliminate their use
41 in children's products, including a ban by the state of New York of a TRIS flame

42 retardant called TCEP, and consideration by several state legislatures of measures to ban
43 toxic flame retardants in children's products, and

44 WHEREAS the Washington state Legislature is considering measures in its 2012
45 legislative session, Senate Bill 6120 and House Bill 2266, each amending the Children's
46 Safe Products Act, which would: prohibit the manufacture, sale or distribution of
47 children's products containing TRIS; require manufacturers of children's products
48 containing specified toxic chemicals to identify alternatives; and authorize the
49 Washington state Department of Ecology to require manufactures of children's products
50 containing chemicals of high concern to conduct alternatives assessments of two such
51 chemicals per year, and

52 WHEREAS, the legislation that was introduced this legislative session has been
53 amended in a way that substantially weakens the intent of the original, and

54 WHEREAS, parents in King County, and residents of the region generally, have
55 great interest in the legislature's action on the amendment to the Children's Safe Products
56 Act as a tool to ensure the safety of products for children,

57 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT MOVED by the Council of King County:

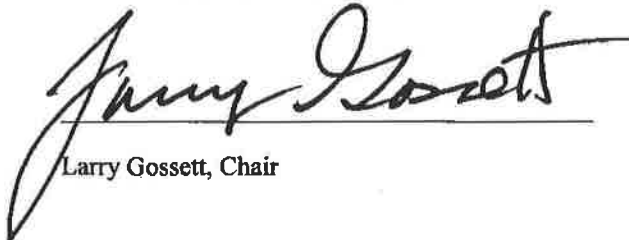
58 The council strongly supports passage of the original version of either House Bill
59 2266 or Senate Bill 6120 introduced in the 2012 regular session of Washington state

60 legislature. These measures call for reasonable amendments to the Children's Safe
61 Products Act.
62

Motion 13641 was introduced on 2/13/2012 and passed by the Metropolitan King
County Council on 2/27/2012, by the following vote:

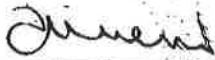
Yes: 7 - Mr. Phillips, Mr. Gossett, Ms. Hague, Ms. Patterson, Ms.
Lambert, Mr. Ferguson and Mr. Dunn
No: 0
Excused: 2 - Mr. von Reichbauer and Mr. McDermott

KING COUNTY COUNCIL
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON



Larry Gossett, Chair

ATTEST:



Anne Noris, Clerk of the Council

Attachments: None