

Environment Committee

JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: SB-884

AN ACT CONCERNING THE MAXIMUM ALLOWABLE CONCENTRATION FOR
1,4-DIOXANE IN HOUSEHOLD CLEANING AND PERSONAL CARE

Title: PRODUCTS AND COSMETICS.

Vote Date: 2/28/2025

Vote Action: Joint Favorable Substitute

PH Date: 2/19/2025

File No.:

***Disclaimer:** The following JOINT FAVORABLE Report is prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and does not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose.*

SPONSORS OF BILL:

Environment Committee

CO-SPONSORS:

Sen. Christine Cohen, 12th Dist.

Rep. Hector Arzeno, 151st Dist.

REASONS FOR BILL:

To protect the public health and the environment by reducing exposure to harmful contaminants in household cleaning, personal care and cosmetic products and encourage safer manufacturing practices.

SUBSTITUTE LANGUAGE LCO 5560

On and after April 1, 2027, no person shall manufacture, distribute, sell or offer for sale any personal care product that contains 1,4-dioxane other than in concentrations that do not exceed one part per million.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

Katie S Dykes, Commissioner CT Department of Energy & Environmental Protection

DEEP Supports SB 884 but has concerns with DEEP's ability to implement this program within existing resources. Further, the DEEP cannot impose and collect fines. These penalties require action by a court. The bill also requires DEEP, consultation with DPH to review the concentration thresholds established and determine whether such concentrations shall be lowered to better protect human health and the environment This may require additional resources for DPH.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

Laura Cahn, Chairwoman, New Haven Environmental Advisory Council

The New Haven Environmental Advisory Council, the city board that deals with environmental issues, Supports SB 884. Setting a limit on the amount of 1,4-Dioxane allowed in liquids such as shampoo, hand soap, laundry detergent, and perfume would protect us and our water from exposure to this planet and health-harming toxin.

Barbara Masi, Deputy Co-Leader, Yale Superfund

The Yale Superfund Research Center focuses on the study of 1,4-Dioxane's impact of public health Supports SB 884. The Yale Superfund has been involved with concerned residents in Connecticut and other states, to discuss growing concerns about regular exposure to 1,4-Dioxane. This chemical has been linked to cancer, in household products, personal care products and in drinking water. The pathway of 1,4-Dioxane in household product or personal care products is entering wastewater or septic systems and then into groundwater. The Connecticut DPH website indicates that 23% of Connecticut's population rely on private residential well water and that 40% of these residences are served by septic sewage systems.

Alicea Charamut, Executive Director, Rivers Alliance of Connecticut

The Rivers Alliance Supports SB 884. Emerging contaminants from pharmaceuticals, cleaning products, and personal care items are increasingly being detected at low levels in drinking water. The ongoing concerns with PFAS chemicals demonstrate how costly and difficult it is to address public health threats when action is delayed.

Iris Herz Kaminski, PhD, Yale School of Public Health

Ms. Kaminski Supports 884. She believes that pollution prevention is more economically efficient than cleaning. 1,4-Dioxane is approximately ½ a nanometer, it is not being removed through conventional drinking water treatment or filtration. NY and CA already passed similar legislation.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

Michelle Lopez Kopa, Senior Director, State Government Relations, Household & Commercial Products Associations

The Household & Commercial Products Association Opposes SB 884. They feel while its well-intentioned, it presents unnecessary duplication of existing regulations, introduces potential confusion for regulated entities, and places additional strain on Connecticut's regulatory resources. Given that companies have already adapted their products to comply with New York's stringent regulations, there is little justification for Connecticut to implement a separate law that would add complexity without clear benefits. A more coordinated regulatory approach is necessary to ensure effective compliance, resource efficiency and meaningful public health protection.

Margaret M. Gorman, Senior Director, Northeast Region, American Chemistry Council

The American Chemistry Council Opposes SB 884. 1,4-Dioxane is not intentionally used in the identified products but rather is an unintentional byproduct which can occur in trace amounts during the manufacturing process of certain intermediates or ingredients that are critical for these products. SB 884 arbitrarily proposes 1,4-Dioxane concentration limits that are inconsistent with the state of the science and run contrary to regulatory assessments from international regulatory bodies including Health Canada and the World Health Organization. 1,4-Dioxane is currently being evaluated at the federal level under the toxic Substances and Control Act. Connecticut should await the results of this TSCA process.

Brennan Georgianni, Associate Vice President, Government Affairs, American Cleaning Institute

The American Cleaning Institute Opposes SB 884. ACI believes it is ill advised to pass additional state laws of this type. Such laws are duplicative of existing state requirements that are already in place. ACI strives to make sure that the rollout of the next phase of New York's law is seamless for consumers and manufacturers after regulations were just finalized in September of last year. And amid potential regulations from California under existing statutory authority, a Connecticut law may further complicate matters. ACI is confident in the work that has already been done to reduce 1,4-Dioxane concentrations in products in the manner that SB 884 seeks to do.

Katie Wright, Vice President, State Government Affairs, Personal Care Products Council

The Personal Care Products Council Oppose SB 884 on the same grounds as the Household & Commercial Products Association, The American Chemistry Council and the American Cleaning Institute.

Reported by: Judy Ganswindt

Date: March 6, 2025