

General Law Committee

JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No: SB-118 / [Bill Status](#) / [Public Hearing Testimony](#)

AN ACT CONCERNING BABY FOOD PRODUCTS AND TOXIC HEAVY
Title: METALS.

Vote Date: 3/11/2026

Vote Action: Joint Favorable Substitute

PH Date: 2/18/2026

File No.:

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SPONSORS OF BILL

General Law Committee

REASONS FOR BILL

The General Law Committee raised this bill with the aim of improving the safety of baby food products for Connecticut consumers. Recent investigations have found that commercial baby food products offered for sale in the United States are often tainted with arsenic, lead, cadmium, and mercury. The bill prohibits selling baby food products that contain toxic heavy metals at levels exceeding Food and Drug Administration (FDA) limits. To ensure baby foods are not exceeding these limits, the bill requires regular testing of baby food for heavy metals, and manufacturers must post the results to their website. The legislation would better inform parents by requiring QR codes on baby food packaging that lead to testing results.

SUBSTITUTE LANGUAGE

To ensure that the Department of Consumer Protection would *not* need additional resources, the substitute language (LCO 2972) removes provisions that would have required the manufacturer to submit results to DCP. It instead requires the manufacturer to keep the testing results for three years and provide them to DCP upon request.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY

[Department of Consumer Protection–Bryan Cafferelli, Commissioner](#)–DCP provided general comments regarding SB 118. Although they appreciate the importance of the bill's objective of ensuring the safety of baby food products, the department lacks the resources to support the bill, as they are not part of Governor Lamont's budget adjustments.

Commission on Women, Children, Seniors, Equity, and Opportunity (CWCSEO)--TJ Nuccio, Children's Policy Analyst—CWCSEO submitted written testimony in support of SB 118, noting that commercial baby foods are often tainted with dangerous levels of arsenic, lead, cadmium, and mercury. They cite one study indicating that 95% of tested baby food was contaminated with heavy metals. The Commission appreciates that the legislation would allow for enforcement of current FDA guidance regarding lead levels in processed baby foods. They characterize SB 118 as an important step toward protecting public health, and they also encourage the committee to consider additional protections regarding food products for babies, children, and adults in Connecticut.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT

Connecticut Children's Medical Center--Dr. Andrew Carlson, Division Head of Primary Care— Dr. Carlson submitted written testimony expressing support for SB 118, noting that reducing exposure to arsenic, cadmium, lead, and mercury in infants and toddlers is an important public health priority. He states that the legislation protects children during critical periods of brain development. Dr. Carlson appreciates that the bill aligns with FDA limits rather than creating state-specific standards because it reduces regulatory confusion. However, he stresses the need for clear educational messaging for families, cautioning that the disclosure requirements could cause parental anxiety and increase the burden on pediatric providers. In particular, he stresses the importance of explaining the difference between “zero” and “below action levels.” Dr. Carlson also encourages the committee to consider how the frequency of testing could impact cost for families.

American Association for Laboratory Accreditation (A2LA)--Randall Querry, Director, Government Relations—A2LA submitted written testimony in general support of SB 118. Their testimony offers technical input to broaden the bill's coverage. They request that the committee consider adding language requiring that the accreditation be performed by an organization that is recognized by Global Accreditation Cooperation Incorporated. Citing a recent article from Consumer Reports that suggests that testing may be needed for infant formula, they also encourage the committee to include infant formula in the definition of baby food.

Requested Amendments: (Language included in written testimony.)

- Page 1, starting at line 5: [does not] includes infant formula
- Page 2, line 18: (d) “Proficient laboratory means a laboratory that (A) is accredited by an accreditation body that is a signatory to the Global Accreditation Cooperation Incorporated, under International Organization for Standardization [or] and International Electrotechnical Commission (ISO/IEC) Standard 17025:2017, as amended from time to time.

Zachary van Luling, Town Councilor, Rocky Hill and Miriam Lifshitz-Theroux, Deputy Mayor, Rocky Hill—These individuals submitted written testimony in support of SB 118 in their individual capacities, with van Luling writing the testimony and Lifshitz-Theroux cosigning. As a first-time father, van Luling argues that parents have a reasonable expectation that baby food will meet higher safety standards than other consumer products. The testimony praises SB 118 for creating a concurrent compliance structure that includes mandatory laboratory testing, state reporting, and accessible public disclosure via QR codes.

They argue that the bill protects the integrity of the market by ensuring that responsible companies are not competing against companies that cut corners on safety.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION

None recorded.

Reported by: Betsy Francolino

Date: March 17, 2026