

To the House Environment Committee,

I hope you are all doing well and getting excited for the summer! I wanted to reach out and frame up the main differences between the House version of H.238 and the Senate's version should it be helpful. For what it's worth, VPIRG and VNRC are supportive of the bill as passed out of the Senate. This bill is largely consistent with the House's version and was expanded to include a PFAS ban on firefighting gear. Here's a brief overview:

Definition of "Intentionally Added" (Page 3 line 12)

- This definition follows the Rhode Island model and will be implemented on the same timeline as RI.
- Intentionally added includes PFAS as a product component and as part of the manufacturing process, like the Environment Committee intended.
- This definition does not hold the manufacturer liable for PFAS added that could be "known or reasonably ascertainable," which is why the water provision has been removed.

Cookware implementation pushed back to 2028 (page 22 line 6)

- While we think this delayed implementation is unfortunate, we're thankful the Senate committee retained the strong definition of PFAS.

Firefighter gear phase-out of PFAS (starting on page 17 line 13)

- PFAS in firefighting personal protective equipment, or PPE, is prohibited starting in 2029 (excluding respirators).
- PFAS in firefighting respirators will be prohibited in 2032. Manufacturers will be required to give written notice until then.
- Station wear is included in textiles which are banned starting in 2026 per Act 131. Manufacturers will be required to give written notice until then.
- ANR will provide a report on the availability of PFAS free PPE on or before December 15th, 2028, giving the legislature time to rescind or delay the PPE ban if alternatives are not yet available.

Feel free to let me know if you have any questions or would like any additional information. We're excited for this important issue to move forward and appreciate your leadership!

Best,
Anna Seuberling

Environmental Advocate, VPIRG