

The logo for MASSPIRG, featuring the word "MASSPIRG" in a bold, blue, sans-serif font. The letters "PIRG" are underlined with a red line.The logo for BAN TOXIC PFAS, featuring the words "BAN TOXIC" in a bold, grey, sans-serif font above the word "PFAS" in a larger, bold, green, sans-serif font.

An Act to protect Massachusetts public health from PFAS, S1356 & H2197
Sponsored by Senator Julian Cyr and Representative Kate Hogan

Problem: Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are a class of over 12,000 chemicals used to make products stainproof, water resistant, and nonstick. PFAS are in a wide array of consumer products, including food packaging, carpets, clothing, cookware, pesticides, artificial turf, cleaners, waxes, building materials, paints, personal care products, firefighting gear and foam.

All PFAS have a fluorine atom bonded to a carbon. This is one of the strongest bonds in nature — and, as a result, PFAS chemicals are extraordinarily persistent. **They never fully break down**, remaining in the environment for thousands of years. PFAS are bio-accumulative, which means as we continue to make and use PFAS, they continue to build up in our bodies, wildlife and the environment.

Toxic at very low levels, these chemicals [increase risk](#) of cancers, immunosuppression, liver disease, endocrine disruption, developmental and reproductive harm, high cholesterol, asthma, and neurological problems.

People are exposed by drinking and eating food and water that has been contaminated, and using products with PFAS. PFAS in products escapes into air and dust, which we breathe in. When products are manufactured and disposed of, PFAS leach into the soil, groundwater and drinking water. In Massachusetts, at least 169 public water systems in 95 cities and towns, and an unknown number of private wells, have [exceeded the state's legal limit](#) (Maximum Contaminant Level) for PFAS.

Solution: This bill:

- Bans intentionally added PFAS in food packaging, children's products, car seats, personal care products, cookware, fabric treatments, carpets and rugs, upholstered furniture, and firefighters' personal protective equipment on January 1, 2026;
- Bans intentionally added PFAS in all products on January 1, 2030;
- Gives the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) the authority to temporarily exempt products from the PFAS ban if it determines PFAS use in product is essential for health, safety or the functioning of society, and PFAS alternatives are not reasonably available;
- Requires the DEP to limit industry discharges of PFAS to groundwater and surface water by amending permits and writing regulations to require best management practices including eliminating PFAS use, pretreating effluent, decontaminating equipment, minimizing accidental discharge;

- Requires manufacturers to label PFAS-containing products and to submit disclosure reports to the state, with initial reports due June 1, 2026;
- Bans the use of PFAS-containing firefighting foam for testing or training purposes. Requires reporting within 48 hours if foam is used, spilled or otherwise released;
- Creates a PFAS Remediation Trust Fund to help communities test and treat for PFAS in soil, drinking water and groundwater. Funds shall be available to test and treat drinking water in both private wells and public drinking water system;
- Establishes a broad-based multi-lingual public education program around PFAS.

Supporters include:

The Alliance for a Healthy Tomorrow, Built Environment Plus, Clean Water Action, Community Action Works, Conservation Law Foundation, Environmental League of Massachusetts, Environment Massachusetts, League of Women Voters, Massachusetts Breast Cancer Coalition, Massachusetts Coalition for Occupational Safety and Health, MASSPIRG, Nantucket PFAS Action Group, Northeast Organic Farmers Association, Mass. Chapter (NOFA/Mass), Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility, Seaside Sustainability, Sierra Club Massachusetts, Slingshot, and Social Science Environmental Health Research Institute at Northeastern University.

For More Information: Deirdre Cummings, dcummings@masspirg.org, MASSPIRG, 617-747-4319

3.22.23, Graphic credit: Clean Water Action



We're in the lead!
 If Massachusetts passes the Act to Protect Massachusetts Public Health from PFAS, we could be the...

- 1st state to ban PFAS in cookware
- 2nd state to ban PFAS in firefighter personal protective equipment
- 2nd state to ban PFAS in all products by 2030

We're in good company!
 Maine has already enacted a law to ban PFAS in all products by 2030. The European Union is in the process of doing the same, and at least 5 additional states are considering bills to eliminate PFAS from most products by 2030.

States have already enacted bans on:

Firefighting foam.....	11 states
Food packaging.....	11 states
Carpets and rugs.....	6 states
Apparel and textile.....	5 states
Children's products.....	3 states
Personal care products.....	3 states