

# MASSPIRG

## *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. When products containing PFAS are manufactured and disposed of, PFAS leach into the soil, groundwater and drinking water. In Massachusetts, at least 171 public water systems in 96 cities and towns, and many private wells, have [exceeded the state's legal limit](#) (Maximum Contaminant Level) for PFAS.

The bill is cosponsored by a bipartisan [majority of lawmakers](#) from the House and Senate.

**Solution:** This bill contains recommendations outlined in the [PFAS Interagency Task Force Report](#):

- Regulates PFAS as a class of chemicals, defined as “**fluorinated organic chemicals containing at least one fully fluorinated carbon atom**,” preventing substitutions that pose similar health risks.
- 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 Public Health (DPH) 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 Department of Environmental Protection (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.



**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 firefighter personal protective equipment
- **2nd** state to ban PFAS in cookware
- **3rd** state to ban PFAS in all products

**We're in good company!**  
 Maine and Minnesota have both enacted laws that ban PFAS in all products. The European Union is in the process of considering a similar proposal.

**States have already enacted bans on:**

Firefighting foam .....	12 states
Food packaging.....	12 states
Carpets, rugs, fabric treatments.....	6 states
Apparel or textiles .....	5 states
Children's products .....	4 states
Personal care products.....	4 states

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