

Senate Bill 312

Cosmetic Fragrance and Flavor Ingredient Right to Know Act of 2019

Senator Connie M. Leyva (D-Chino)

SUMMARY

Senate Bill 312 would require companies selling beauty or personal care products in California to report the presence of hazardous fragrance and flavor ingredients in their products to the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) Safe Cosmetics Program, who would then make this information publicly available through their [Safe Cosmetics Database](#).

BACKGROUND

Thousands of synthetic chemicals are used to create the fragrances and flavors that comprise the beauty and personal care products we use every day. Some of these chemicals have been linked to negative health impacts ranging from allergic reactions to reproductive harm and increased risk of breast cancer.

The magnitude of the potential danger to human health is worsened by the fact that fragrance chemicals are found in more than 95 percent of personal care productsⁱ such as shampoos, conditioners, hair styling products, antiperspirants and shaving products, as well as fine fragrances, body sprays and lotions. In a national survey, over 34% of respondents in the U.S. reported health problems, such as migraine headaches and respiratory difficulties, in response to exposure to fragranced productsⁱⁱ.

Recent data compiled by Women's Voices for the Earth reveals that a third of all fragrance chemicals currently in use have been flagged as potentially toxic by scientists around the worldⁱⁱⁱ. Additionally, personal care product testing conducted by Breast Cancer Prevention Partners in 2018 revealed that three out of four hazardous chemicals identified in the products tested were fragrance ingredients^{iv}.

Fragrance chemicals also pose significant occupational risks. Professional salon workers are disproportionately exposed to fragrances in the workplace. Hairdressers and beauticians have a 47-fold higher risk^v of fragrance skin allergies than people in other occupations. The California Work-Related Asthma Prevention Program has documented that use of fragranced products in the workplace is associated with work-related asthma^{vi}.

Identified flavor chemicals also have harmful health impacts. Thirty-five flavors listed on the International Organization of the Flavorings Industry (IOFI) list are on the California Department of Toxic Substances Control's Candidate Chemicals List linking them to human health or environmental harm.

Ten flavor ingredients appearing on the IOFI list are carcinogens or reproductive toxicants listed on California Proposition 65's list.

Enacted in 2005, the California Department of Public Health's [California Safe Cosmetics Program \(CSCP\)](#) requires companies to report cosmetics products sold within the state that contain ingredients known or suspected to cause cancer, birth defects, or other reproductive harm. The cosmetics ingredient data submitted to the CSCP is made available to the public on the [Safe Cosmetics Database](#).

PROBLEM

No state or federal law currently requires the disclosure of fragrance or flavor ingredients to consumers or regulatory agencies. This loophole allows dozens – sometimes even hundreds – of chemicals to hide under the word “fragrance” on the labels of beauty and personal care products with little regulatory oversight of the safety of those ingredients. The same loophole exists for flavorants, which are appearing more frequently in flavored lip gloss and chapsticks marketed to children.

All Californians are at risk of exposure to secret hazardous fragrance and flavor chemicals and related harmful chronic health concerns, particularly vulnerable populations such as children, communities of color, and pregnant women.

The presence of unknown, unlabeled toxicants is cause for serious concern because scientific evidence suggests that unsafe chemical exposures in our everyday lives can harm human and environmental health.

SOLUTION

SB 312 requires the public disclosure of hazardous fragrance and flavor chemicals in beauty and personal care products sold in California.

Specifically, SB 312 requires companies that sell beauty or personal care products in California to report fragrance or flavor ingredients which appear on designated authoritative hazard lists to the California Safe Cosmetics Program, who will then make this information available through their publicly accessible [Safe Cosmetics Database](#).

SB 312 ***does not*** ban any chemicals or require additional product labeling.

CONTACT

Cameron Urkofsky
Office of Senator Connie M. Leyva
State Capitol, Room 4061
(916) 651-4020
Cameron.Urkofsky@sen.ca.gov

ⁱ [Prevalence of Cosmetic Allergens; Journal of Clinical and Aesthetic Dermatology](#)

ⁱⁱ [Fragranced consumer products: exposures and effects from emissions; Air Quality, Atmosphere & Health International Journal](#)

ⁱⁱⁱ [Unpacking the Fragrance Industry](#)

^{iv} [Right to Know: Exposing toxic fragrance chemicals in beauty, personal care and cleaning products](#)

^v [Montgomery RL, Agius R, Wilkinson SM and Carder M. \(2018\) UK trends of allergic occupational skin disease attributed to fragrances](#)

^{vi} [CDPH Fragrances and Work-Related Asthma](#)

