

Rhode Island

MEMO IN OPPOSITION

HB 5117

Rhode Island HB 5117 (Lombardi)

The American Chemistry Council (ACC) is a national trade association representing chemicals and plastics manufacturers in the United States, including member companies in the state of Rhode Island. Our members are committed to the safety of their products and to the protection of the public health.

Over 96% of all manufactured goods are directly touched by the business of chemistry, making this industry an essential part of every facet of our nation's economy. Chemistry provides significant economic benefits in every state including Rhode Island. Thanks to chemistry, our lives are healthier, safer, more sustainable and productive than before. Over 3000 people are employed by the chemistry industry in Rhode Island.

ACC opposes HB 5117, a bill that would require that all cosmetics manufactured, sold, or delivered, or held for offering to be sold contain a label that completely and accurately lists all component ingredients.

Additional Labeling Requirements for Cosmetics Should Not be Required

Cosmetics are regulated as part of a comprehensive federal method.

Separate state requirements will create an unnecessary, burdensome patchwork of labeling laws. Furthermore, this bill could violate the federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act, which preempts states from enacting any law on cosmetic labeling that differs from the federal law.

The federal labeling includes complex requirements for the safety of the ingredients and labeling.

Cosmetic products already must be labeled with the following information:

- Net Quantity of Contents.
- Name and Place of Business, Manufacturer, Packer, or Distributor.
- Warning Statements.
- Directions for Use.

And a separate federal law (Fair Package Labeling Act) authorizes FDA to issue regulations establishing labeling requirements for:

- Statement of Identity
- Declaration of Ingredients
- Net Quantity of Contents
- Name and Place of Business, Manufacturer, Packer, or Distributor

Even a single requirement to add a single word to an already cramped label could be extremely burdensome or impossible.

- Cosmetics have TINY labels.

And just providing information about “ingredients” – while interesting – is not the kind of health and safety information that should go on the label.

- More information is not always better. More information can create information overload; consumers can miss or disregard important health and safety information altogether. Information required to be on labels must be reserved for important information. There are other ways to offer product communications about other kinds of information.

For all of the above listed reasons, ACC urges you to oppose HB 5117.

For more information or questions, please contact Margaret Gorman, Senior Director, Northeast Region, American Chemistry Council at margaret_gorman@americanchemistry.com.