

House Bill 803

By: Representatives Schofield of the 63<sup>rd</sup>, Scott of the 76<sup>th</sup>, and Davis of the 87<sup>th</sup>

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

1 To amend Chapter 15 of Title 25 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to other  
2 safety inspections and regulations, so as to prohibit the use of certain chemical flame  
3 retardants; to provide for procedures, conditions, and limitations; to provide for a short title;  
4 to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

6 **SECTION 1.**

7 This Act shall be known and may be cited as the "Safer States Act."

8 **SECTION 2.**

9 Chapter 15 of Title 25 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to other safety  
10 inspections and regulations, is amended by adding a new article to read as follows:

11 "ARTICLE 6

12 25-15-115.

13 (a) As used in this Code section, the term:

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14 (1) 'Bedding' means any residential or commercial bedding material, including, but not  
15 limited to, a mattress, mattress pad, mattress cover, sheeting, pillow, blanket, comforter,  
16 duvet cover, sleeping bag, or any other stuffed item intended to be used for reclining or  
17 sleeping.

18 (2) 'Carpeting' means a residential or commercial fabric floor covering, including carpet  
19 padding.

20 (3) 'Children's product' means a consumer product intended, made, or marketed for use  
21 by children up to 12 years old. For the purposes of this Code section, the term shall not  
22 include:

23 (A) Batteries;

24 (B) Inaccessible components of a consumer product that, during a reasonably  
25 foreseeable use and abuse of the children's product, would not come into direct contact  
26 with a child's skin or mouth; and

27 (C) Consumer electronic and electrical products, including, but not limited to, personal  
28 computers, audio and video equipment, calculators, wireless telephones, game consoles,  
29 power cords, electric chargers, and hand-held devices incorporating a video screen used  
30 to access interactive software and associated peripherals.

31 (4) 'Covered product' means bedding, carpeting, children's product, residential  
32 upholstered furniture, or window treatment.

33 (5) 'Engineered nanoobject' means a material with 1, 2, or 3 external dimensions in the  
34 nanoscale.

35 (6) 'Manufacturer' means a person or entity that produces, imports, or distributes covered  
36 products.

37 (7) 'Nanoscale' means a size range from approximately 1 nanometer to 100 nanometers.

38 (8) 'Office' means the office of Safety Fire Commissioner.

39 (9) 'Residential upholstered furniture' means seating or other upholstered products  
40 intended for indoor or outdoor use in or at a home or other dwelling intended for

41 residential occupancy that consists in whole or in part of resilient cushioning materials  
42 enclosed within a covering consisting of fabric or other textile. For the purposes of this  
43 Code section, the term shall not include furniture for which the core functionality depends  
44 upon the utilization of electric or electronic components subject to various underwriters  
45 laboratories other comparable flammability standards, including, but not limited to,  
46 massage chairs, assisted lift chairs, and home theater seating.

47 (10) 'Retailer' means a person or entity that offers a product for sale at retail through any  
48 means, including, but not limited to, remote offerings such as sales outlets, catalogs, or  
49 the internet but shall not include a sale that is a wholesale transaction with a distributor  
50 or a retailer.

51 (11) 'Window treatment' means residential or commercial curtain materials, blinds, or  
52 shades.

53 (b) A manufacturer or retailer shall not sell, offer, or manufacture for sale, distribute in  
54 commerce, or import into the state a covered product, except for inventory manufactured  
55 prior to January 1, 2024, that contains any of the following chemical flame retardants or  
56 a chemical analogue the total weight of which exceeds 1,000 parts per million for any  
57 component part of the covered product:

58 (1) Tris(1,3-dichloro-2-propyl)phosphate (TDCPP) (Chemical Abstracts Service number  
59 13674-87-8);

60 (2) Tris(2-chloroethyl)phosphate (TCEP) (Chemical Abstracts Service number  
61 115-1496-8);

62 (3) Antimony trioxide (Chemical Abstracts Service number 1309-64-4);

63 (4) Hexabromocyclododecane (HBCD) (Chemical Abstracts Service number  
64 25637-99-4);

65 (5) Bis(2-Ethylhexyl)-3,4,5,6-tetrabromophthalate (TBPH) (Chemical Abstracts Service  
66 number 26040-51-7);

67 (6) 2-Ethylhexyl-2,3,4,5-tetrabromobenzoate (TBB) (Chemical Abstracts Service  
68 number 183658–27–7);

69 (7) Chlorinated paraffins (Chemical Abstracts Service number 85535–84–8);

70 (8) Tris(1-chloro-2-propyl) phosphate (TCPP) (Chemical Abstracts Service number  
71 13674–84–5);

72 (9) pentaBDE (Chemical Abstracts Service number 32534–81–9);

73 (10) octaBDE (Chemical Abstracts Service number 32536–52–0);

74 (11) Tetrabromobisphenol A (TBBPA) (Chemical Abstracts Service number 79–94–7);  
75 or

76 (12) Any other chemical flame retardants specified by the office pursuant to  
77 subsection (c) of this Code section.

78 (c) Every three years the office shall review, identify, and recommend other chemical  
79 flame retardants that should be prohibited under subsection (b) of this Code section;  
80 provided, however, that the office shall demonstrate that the chemical flame retardant is  
81 known to:

82 (1) Harm the normal development of a fetus or child or cause other developmental  
83 toxicity;

84 (2) Cause cancer, genetic damage, or reproductive harm;

85 (3) Disrupt the endocrine system;

86 (4) Damage the nervous system, immune system, or an organ, or cause other systemic  
87 toxicity; or

88 (5) Is found to be persistent, bioaccumulative, and toxic.

89 If the office determines that a chemical flame retardant meets the conditions of this  
90 subsection, it shall promulgate rules to restrict the manufacture, sale, distribution in  
91 commerce, or importation of any children's product or residential upholstered furniture  
92 containing the chemical flame retardant within nine months after making such  
93 determination. A manufacturer or retailer shall not sell, offer or manufacture for sale,

94 distribute in commerce, or import into the state any covered product, except for inventory  
95 manufactured prior to the effective date of the rule, that contains the chemical flame  
96 retardant in a total weight that exceeds 1,000 parts per million for any component part of  
97 the covered product; provided, however, that if the chemical flame retardant is an  
98 engineered nanoobject, a manufacturer or retailer shall not sell, offer or manufacture for  
99 sale, distribute in commerce, or import into the state any covered product, except for  
100 inventory manufactured prior to the effective date of the rule, that contains the chemical  
101 flame retardant in any amount.

102 (d) This Code section shall not apply to:

103 (1) Motor vehicles, watercraft, aircraft, all-terrain vehicles, off-highway motorcycles,  
104 or any component parts; or

105 (2) The sale or purchase of any previously owned product containing a chemical flame  
106 retardant prohibited under this Code section.

107 (e) A manufacturer of a covered product that contains a chemical flame retardant  
108 prohibited by this Code section shall provide notice to retailers and other persons that sell  
109 covered products in this state of the presence of such chemical flame retardant on or before  
110 January 1, 2024.

111 (f) Subsections (a) through (c) of this Code section shall not apply to the sale, purchase,  
112 lease, distribution, or use of any covered product manufactured before January 1, 2024, or  
113 any covered product that contains chemicals prohibited under this Code section due to the  
114 presence of recycled materials used during the manufacture of the product covered.

115 (g) A manufacturer or retailer that violates the provisions of subsection (b) of this Code  
116 section shall be subject to the following civil penalties:

117 (1) For the first violation, a fine of not more than \$100.00 per covered product, not to  
118 exceed a total of \$5,000.00;

119 (2) For the second violation, a fine of not more than \$250.00 per covered product, not  
120 to exceed a total of \$25,000.00; and

121 (3) For the third or subsequent violation, a fine of not more than \$1,000.00 per covered  
122 product, not to exceed a total of \$50,000.00.

123 For purposes of calculating a penalty under this subsection, a collection of covered  
124 products that are sold as a set shall constitute one covered product. A manufacturer or  
125 retailer that knowingly violates this Code section shall be subject to a civil penalty equal  
126 to three times the amount of the fine imposed for such violation pursuant to this subsection.

127 (h) A civil penalty for a violation of this Code section imposed pursuant to subsection (g)  
128 of this Code section shall be waived by the office if the office determines that a  
129 manufacturer or retailer acted in good faith to be in compliance with this Code section,  
130 pursued compliance with due diligence, and promptly corrected any noncompliance after  
131 discovery of the violation.

132 (i) The office may promulgate such rules and regulations necessary to implement this  
133 Code section."

134 **SECTION 3.**

135 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.