
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
142nd GENERAL ASSEMBLY

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 64

SUPPORTING A MERCURY THERMOMETER EXCHANGE WEEK.

WHEREAS, mercury is a persistent and toxic pollutant that accumulates in the environment and in the food chain;

WHEREAS, mercury from mercury thermometers can enter the environment through watersheds, rivers, lakes, vaporization or spillage when a thermometer breaks during use, transportation or disposal; and

WHEREAS, the effect of mercury on the central nervous system includes tremors, impaired vision and hearing paralysis, insomnia, developmental deficits during fetal development, attention deficit and developmental delays during childhood; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency ranks the health care industry as the fourth largest source of mercury air emissions because of their contribution to medical waste incinerators, and

WHEREAS, many cities and states are passing laws to ban the sale of mercury fever thermometers, for which there are many accurate and safe alternatives comparable in cost;

NOW THEREFORE:

BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the 142nd General Assembly of the State of Delaware, the Senate concurring therein, that the General Assembly support the Delaware Nurses Association sponsoring a statewide mercury thermometer exchange week from May 6, 2004 through May 12, 2004 during which the Association will provide the citizens of Delaware with new non-mercury thermometers in exchange for their mercury thermometers; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Delaware General Assembly calls upon all retail establishments within the State of Delaware that stock mercury thermometers to voluntarily and permanently remove these thermometers from their stock and discontinue their sale to the public.
SYNOPSIS

This resolution supports the Delaware Nurses Association sponsoring a mercury thermometer exchange week. The resolution further encourages retail establishments within the State to voluntarily stop stocking and selling mercury thermometers.