

Take the Next Step to Protect Babies from Toxic BPA: Approve LD 902 to Authorize Final Adoption of the BPA Rule



The History of BPA

First developed as a possible hormone replacement therapy which imitates estrogen, Bisphenol-A (BPA) is now used to line the inside of metal cans and jar lids. BPA has been found to contaminate food and beverages when it leaches out of the epoxy resin linings of these products. Babies and young children are most susceptible to BPA's harmful health effects.

BPA Policy in Maine

- **Baby bottles and sippy cups:** In 2011, the Legislature approved, nearly unanimously, a DEP rule to prohibit the sale of plastic baby bottles and sippy cups containing BPA. But that rule did not cover packaging for infant formula and baby food containing BPA.
- **Infant formula and baby food packaging:** In January 2013, the Board of Environmental Protection voted unanimously to prohibit the sale of packaging for infant formula and baby food containing BPA, effective March 14, 2014. This rule is subject to final authorization by the Legislature and represents the next step under Maine's Kid Safe Products Act to reduce children's exposure to BPA.

BPA harms the developing brains of young children

- In 2008, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services expressed formal concern that BPA may harm the brain and prostate gland in, and alter the behavior of, fetuses, infants, and children at current levels of human exposure
- Most scientists who study xenoestrogens (estrogen imitators), including The Endocrine Society, regard them as serious environmental hazards that have hormone disruptive effects on both wildlife and humans.
- Recent human health studies showed that young children born to women exposed to the highest levels of BPA during pregnancy have measurable increases in hyperactivity, stress, and impulsive behavior (Braun 2011).

Safer BPA-free alternatives are widely available

- An independent study prepared for the Maine Department of Environmental Protection found that safer BPA-free alternatives are widely available for packaging of infant formula and baby food.
- With final adoption of the current BPA rule, Maine would join two other states in prohibiting BPA from these baby food packaging.
- More than 90% of the market has already switched to BPA-free solutions.

Amend the rule to prohibit BPA in canned toddler food

- Under current law, the Board has authority to phase out Priority Chemicals in food packaging intended for or marketed to children under age three.
- Although the Maine Board of Environmental Protection rule does prohibit BPA in packaging for infant formula and baby food, the Board **wrongly** failed to include a third product category - toddler food.
- Canned food is the major source of exposure to BPA for toddlers, older children and adults, including women who may become pregnant.