

1 AN ACT in relation to public health.

2 Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,  
3 represented in the General Assembly:

4 Section 1. Short title. This Act may be cited as the  
5 Mercury Fever Thermometer Prohibition Act.

6 Section 5. Findings.

7 (a) The General Assembly finds:

8 (1) that human exposure to mercury can result in  
9 adverse health effects, and mercury pollutants have been  
10 linked to nervous system, kidney, and liver damage and  
11 impaired childhood development;

12 (2) that mercury fever thermometers are easily  
13 broken, creating a potential risk of dangerous exposure  
14 to mercury vapor in indoor air and risking mercury  
15 contamination of the environment;

16 (3) that accidental mercury spills and thermometer  
17 breakages have proven costly to clean up;

18 (4) that according to the Mercury Study Report,  
19 prepared by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and  
20 submitted to the U.S. Congress in 1997, mercury fever  
21 thermometers contribute approximately 17 tons of mercury  
22 to solid waste each year;

23 (5) that according to the U.S. Environmental  
24 Protection Agency, the quantity of mercury in one mercury  
25 fever thermometer, approximately one gram, is enough to  
26 contaminate all fish in a lake with a surface area of 20  
27 acres;

28 (6) that accurate and safe alternatives to mercury  
29 thermometers are readily available and comparable in  
30 cost; and

31 (7) that many national pharmacy and retail chains

1           have discontinued the sale of mercury thermometers to  
2           consumers.

3           (b) It is the purpose of this Act to prohibit the sale,  
4           distribution, or promotional gifts of mercury fever  
5           thermometers in this State.

6           Section 10. Definitions. For the purposes of this Act,  
7           the words and terms defined in this Section shall have the  
8           meaning given, unless the context otherwise clearly requires.

9           "Mercury fever thermometer" means any device containing  
10          mercury wherein the mercury is used to measure the internal  
11          body temperature of a person.

12          "Health care facility" means any hospital, nursing home,  
13          extended care facility, long-term facility, clinic or medical  
14          laboratory, State or private health or mental institution,  
15          clinic, physician's office, or health maintenance  
16          organization.

17          "Hospital" means any institution, place, building, or  
18          agency, public or private, whether organized for profit or  
19          not, devoted primarily to the maintenance and operation of  
20          facilities for the diagnosis and treatment or care of 2 or  
21          more unrelated persons admitted for overnight stay or longer  
22          in order to obtain medical, including obstetric, psychiatric,  
23          and nursing, care of illness, disease, injury, infirmity, or  
24          deformity.

25          "Person" means any individual, partnership,  
26          co-partnership, firm, company, limited liability company,  
27          corporation, association, joint stock company, trust, estate,  
28          political subdivision, State agency, or non-profit  
29          organization, or any other legal entity.

30          Section 15. Sale, distribution, or promotional gifts of  
31          mercury fever thermometers prohibited.

32          (a) On or after July 1, 2004, no person shall sell,

1 distribute, or give for promotional purposes (including  
2 online retail) mercury fever thermometers in this State.

3 (b) On or after July 1, 2004, no hospital shall  
4 distribute mercury fever thermometers in maternity or new  
5 baby gift packs to patients.

6 (c) This Section does not apply to mercury fever  
7 thermometers sold or provided to be used in a health care  
8 facility.

9 Section 20. Manufacturing of mercury fever thermometers  
10 prohibited. On or after July 1, 2004, no person shall  
11 manufacture a mercury fever thermometer in this State.

12 Section 25. Penalty for violation. A person who violates  
13 this Act shall be guilty of a petty offense and upon  
14 conviction shall be subject to a fine of not less than \$50  
15 and not more than \$200 for each violation.