



For immediate release

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California Takes Major Step in Identifying Sources of PFAS “Forever Chemicals” in its People and Environment.

SACRAMENTO, Calif. – Today the California Legislature passed A.B. 2247, bill requiring the reporting of toxic “forever chemicals” known as PFAS coming into California. The bill is now on its way to Governor Newsom for his signature.

“A.B. 2247 will help us accurately identify how many PFAS are coming into California,” said the **Assemblymember Richard Bloom** (D-Santa Monica). “Giving the state the authority to collect this data will enable us to explore how best to mitigate its harmful impacts. Without this information, we cannot take meaningful steps toward protecting the health of Californians and our environment in the long-term.”

Bloom authored **A.B. 2247**, with state Senator Ben Allen (D-Santa Monica) and Assemblymember Phil Ting (D-San Francisco) as coauthors.

The state needs to know how many PFAS are sold in and entering California and in what form to regulate these toxic compounds and prevent further human or environmental exposure. Local governments, water treatment services and businesses must know the sources of PFAS to better manage contamination and ensure the public isn’t unnecessarily exposed.

“These toxic chemicals live forever in our water, our food and our bodies,” said **Allen**, who chairs the Senate Environmental Quality Committee. “We must understand where PFAS are coming from if we can hope to reduce their harmful effects.”

If it becomes law, A.B. 2247 would require manufacturers to disclose, in a publicly accessible database, PFAS intentionally added to products sold in or imported into California, and information on the type and quantity of PFAS compound they contain.

The California Department of Toxic Substances Control will work with a multi-state chemical clearinghouse to create and maintain the new PFAS database, which will be available by July 1, 2025, and help reduce and clean up PFAS contamination. The state is not the first to require this information. Maine has banned PFAS by 2030 for non-essential uses and is slated to start collecting similar data on PFAS coming into that state as early as 2023.

In 2021 a unique alliance was built when environmental organizations and wastewater agencies created a joint workgroup to discuss the PFAS crisis in California. Over the course of a year, this workgroup,

which also included drinking water agencies, unanimously concluded that while the state is making progress in restricting some key sources of PFAS, it is just the tip of the iceberg given the ubiquitous use of the chemicals in consumer and industrial products. The group unanimously agreed on the critical need to collect data on how they are entering the state, and so A.B. 2247 was born. The bill is co-sponsored by the Environmental Working Group, the California Association of Sanitation Agencies and Clean Water Action.

PFAS are found in the blood of virtually everyone, **including newborn babies**. Very low doses of PFAS have been linked to **suppression of the immune system**, including **reduced vaccine efficacy**. These chemicals **harm development and the reproductive system**, such as reduced birth weight and impacts on fertility; **increased risk of certain cancers**; and effects on metabolism, such as changes in cholesterol and weight gain.

“California needs a clear understanding of where toxic PFAS are coming from,” said **Susan Little**, EWG’s senior advocate for government affairs. “It is long past time we turned off the tap on PFAS pollution. We must learn where the contamination is coming from to prevent more of these ‘forever chemicals’ from getting into our water, food and air.”

“Wastewater agencies are proactively looking for solutions to limit the amount of PFAS that enters our watersheds,” said **Adam Link**, executive director of the California Association of Sanitation Agencies.

“We need to have data about the sources of PFAS entering our waterways in order to make informed management decisions. A.B. 2247 is an important first step toward the end goal of developing a comprehensive PFAS pollution prevention approach, and we applaud Assemblymember Bloom for authoring this important bill,” Link said.

“When virtually every Californian has toxic PFAS in their body, babies are born with them, and the chemicals are detected in water systems serving 16 million people, we cannot continue to be in the dark about where these chemicals are coming from and how they enter the environment,” said **Andria Ventura**, legislative and policy director at Clean Water Action.

“Regulators, water agencies, elected officials, consumers and businesses need this crucial PFAS data to best manage these forever chemicals,” she added.