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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2006

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A N A C T

RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY -- MERCURY REDUCTION AND EDUCATION
ACT

Introduced By: Senators Ruggerio, Sosnowski, Doyle, McCaffrey, and Felag

Date Introduced: February 09, 2006

Referred To: Senate Environment & Agriculture

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 23-24.9-10 of the General Laws in Chapter 23-24.9 entitled
2 "Mercury Reduction and Education Act" is hereby amended to read as follows:

3 **23-24.9-10. Collection of mercury-added products.** -- (a) After January 1, 2006, no
4 mercury-added product shall be offered for final sale or use or distribution for promotional
5 purposes in Rhode Island unless the manufacturer, either on its own or in concert with other
6 persons, has implemented a system, after review and approval of the director, for the convenient
7 and accessible collection of such products when the consumer is finished with them. Where a
8 mercury-added product is a component of another product, the collection system must provide for
9 removal and collection of the mercury-added component or collection of both the mercury-added
10 component and the product containing it. Mercury-added components in motor vehicles shall be
11 collected and recycled as provided for in subdivision (b)(2) of this section.

12 (b) (1) This section shall not apply to the collection of mercury-added button cell
13 batteries or mercury-added lamps or products where the only mercury contained in the product
14 comes from a mercury-added button cell battery or a mercury-added lamp; and

15 (2) Mercury-added components in motor vehicles at end-of-life shall be collected and
16 recycled as provided in this subsection. Significant, willful failure to comply with rules and/or
17 regulations to implement the provisions of this section shall constitute, as may be determined by
18 the department, a violation of the ban established in section 23-24.9-9. No scrap recycling facility

1 or other person that receives a flattened, crushed or baled end-of-life vehicle shall be deemed to
2 be in violation of subdivision 23-24.9-10(b)(2) and rules and regulations pursuant thereto or
3 section 23-24.9-9 if a mercury switch is found in the vehicle after its acquisition.

4 For the purposes of subdivision 23-24.9-10(b)(2) the following terms shall have the
5 following meanings: (i) "Capture rate" means the annual removal, collection, and recovery of
6 mercury switches, as a percentage of the total number of mercury switches available for removal
7 from end-of-life vehicles as determined by the Department of Environmental Management.
8 Capture rate shall not include mercury switches that are inaccessible due to significant damage to
9 the motor vehicle in the area where the mercury switch is located; (ii) "Mercury added
10 component" or "Mercury switch" means a mercury-added convenience light switch assembly or
11 capsule from an end-of-life motor vehicle; (iii) "Scrap recycling facility" means a fixed location
12 where machinery and equipment are utilized for processing and manufacturing scrap metal into
13 prepared grades and whose principal product is scrap iron, scrap steel, or nonferrous metallic
14 scrap for sale for remelting purposes; and (iv) "Vehicle recycler" means an individual or entity
15 licensed under the provisions of section 42-14.2-3 that engages in the business of acquiring,
16 dismantling, parts recycling from, or destroying six (6) or more end-of-life vehicles in a calendar
17 year.

18 (A) Manufacturers of motor vehicles sold in Rhode Island that contain mercury switches
19 shall, individually or collectively, establish and implement a collection program for mercury
20 switches to achieve a capture rate of not less than fifty percent (50%) for calendar year 2006, and
21 not less than seventy percent (70%) for calendar year 2007 and each calendar year thereafter
22 through calendar year 2017. ~~The collection program shall be subject to the following~~
23 ~~requirements:~~

24 ~~(i) On or before September 1, 2005, manufacturers of motor vehicles subject to the~~
25 ~~collection program requirement shall submit to the department a plan setting forth a proposed~~
26 ~~collection program. At a minimum, the plan shall:~~

27 ~~(I) Explain how capture rate requirements are anticipated to be met through~~
28 ~~implementation of the plan;~~

29 ~~(II) Ensure that mercury switches collected are managed in accordance with the~~
30 ~~universal waste rules adopted by the department;~~

31 ~~(III) Provide the department and scrap recycling facilities and vehicle recyclers with~~
32 ~~information, training and other technical assistance required to facilitate removal and recycling of~~
33 ~~mercury switches in accordance with the universal waste rules;~~

34 ~~(IV) Make available to the public information concerning services to remove mercury~~

1 ~~switches in motor vehicles;~~

2 ~~-(V) The proposed collection program plan shall be subject to the review and approval of~~
3 ~~the department, which may require adjustments or modifications to the plan.~~

4 ~~-(ii) By January 1, 2006, manufacturers of motor vehicles subject to the collection~~
5 ~~program requirement shall implement a collection program plan approved by the department; and~~

6 ~~-(iii) For the calendar quarter ending March 31, 2006, and each calendar quarter~~
7 ~~thereafter, not later than forty five (45) days following the close of the calendar quarter,~~
8 ~~manufacturers of motor vehicles subject to the collection program requirement shall provide~~
9 ~~quarterly implementation reports to the department, which reports shall include the number of~~
10 ~~mercury switches collected and the amount of mercury collected and recycled through the~~
11 ~~collection program. The report shall further include, but not be limited to: a detailed description~~
12 ~~and documentation of the capture rate.~~

13 ~~-(B) In the event that the program set forth in subparagraph 23-24.9-10(b)(2)(A) does not~~
14 ~~achieve the specified capture rates for any calendar year, the The department shall develop, issue,~~
15 ~~administer and enforce regulation compelling the manufacturers of motor vehicles sold in Rhode~~
16 ~~Island that contain mercury switches to undertake a collection program as set forth in this~~
17 ~~subparagraph, 23-24.9-10(b)(2)(B). ~~Provided, however, that if the~~ The department shall~~
18 ~~determine that the ~~failure to achieve the required~~ capture rate in ~~any~~ each year of the program and~~
19 ~~shall access whether any failure to achieve the capture rate was the result of a force-majeure. The~~
20 ~~department shall report publicly on or before March 31, each year its findings with regard to the~~
21 ~~capture rate during the prior year. ~~the department may extend the program established pursuant to~~~~
22 ~~~~subparagraph 23-24.9-10(b)(2)(A) for a period of not less than one calendar quarter and not~~~~
23 ~~~~greater than the number of whole calendar quarters equal to the number of calendar quarters~~~~
24 ~~~~affected by the force majeure and shall substitute the capture rates achieved in such calendar~~~~
25 ~~~~quarter(s) for the captures rates achieved in the calendar quarter(s) affected by the force majeure;~~~~
26 ~~~~the department shall recalculate the annual capture rate for the year affected by the force majeure~~~~
27 ~~~~using the substitute calendar quarter(s) to determine whether the annual capture rate requirements~~~~
28 ~~~~set forth in subparagraph 23-24.9-10(b)(2)(A) were met. The manufacturer or manufacturers shall~~~~
29 ~~~~pay the ~~The~~ total cost of the removal, replacement, collection and recovery system for mercury~~~~
30 ~~~~switches, under this subparagraph, 23-24.9-10(b)(2)(B), to the vehicle recycler or scrap recycling~~~~
31 ~~~~facility that removed the switch. ~~shall be borne by the manufacturer or manufacturers.~~ The total~~~~
32 ~~~~cost shall include, but not be limited to, ~~the following:~~~~~~

33 ~~(i) A a minimum of ~~three dollars (\$3.00)~~ five dollars (\$5.00) for each mercury switch~~
34 ~~removed by a vehicle recycler or by a scrap recycling facility, as partial compensation for the~~

1 labor and other costs incurred in the removal of the mercury switch, ~~to be paid to the vehicle~~
2 ~~recycler or the scrap recycling facility that removed the switch;~~

3 (ii) ~~One dollar (\$1.00) for each mercury switch removed by a vehicle recycler or by a~~
4 ~~scrap recycling facility to be paid to the department as partial compensation to the department for~~
5 ~~costs incurred in administering and enforcing the provisions of this subchapter and providing~~
6 ~~services related thereto which may include but shall not be limited to:~~

7 ~~Training;~~

8 ~~Packaging in which to transport mercury switches to recycling, storage or disposal~~
9 ~~facilities;~~

10 ~~Shipping of mercury switches to recycling, storage or disposal facilities;~~

11 ~~Recycling, storage or disposal of the mercury switches;~~

12 ~~Public education materials and presentations; and~~

13 ~~Maintenance of appropriate systems and procedures to protect the environment from~~
14 ~~mercury contamination.~~

15 (3) The provisions of subdivision 23-24.9-10(b)(2) shall satisfy collection programs and
16 disposal requirements for mercury switches for all motor vehicles sold in the state.

17 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF
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1 This act would eliminate the requirements of the collection program and would require
2 the department to determine whether there was a failure to achieve the capture rate and publicly
3 report their findings each March 31st.

4 This act would take effect upon passage.

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