



HR1316

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2           WHEREAS, Many common consumer products contain hazardous  
3 materials; some of these materials, such as lead and mercury,  
4 which can be found in compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs), are  
5 persistent bioaccumulative and toxic chemicals; when products  
6 containing these materials are improperly stored or disposed of  
7 and accidentally break, they can contaminate the soil,  
8 groundwater, and air, posing a risk to human health and  
9 wildlife; and

10           WHEREAS, CFLs significantly reduce mercury, greenhouse  
11 gases, and other toxic emissions from coal-fired power plants  
12 and are two to three times more efficient than standard  
13 incandescent light bulbs, but concerns have been raised about  
14 the safety of CFLs because all models contain mercury and some  
15 models contain lead; and

16           WHEREAS, Mercury is a persistent and toxic pollutant that  
17 bioaccumulates in the environment; and

18           WHEREAS, The Illinois Department of Public Health  
19 recognizes that the developing nervous systems of fetuses and  
20 children could be damaged if exposed to small amounts of  
21 methylmercury; at high doses, methylmercury can affect the  
22 central nervous system causing health problems such as memory

1 loss and slurred speech; and methylmercury can cause kidney  
2 damage, kidney failure, and gastrointestinal damage; and

3 WHEREAS, The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency,  
4 municipalities, IKEA, and Ace Hardware offer CFL collection  
5 programs for proper recycling, but the vast majority of CFLs  
6 end up in landfills or trash incinerators and the hazardous  
7 substances in CFLs can get released into the environment; and

8 WHEREAS, Approximately two percent of household CFLs and  
9 thirty percent of commercial CFLs are recycled in the United  
10 States; therefore, be it

11 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
12 NINETY-FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we  
13 urge CFL manufactureres and retailers to voluntarily implement  
14 CFL collection programs to ensure that more CFLs are properly  
15 recycled.