

Preventing Future American Sickness (PFAS) Act

Section by Section Summary

Sen. Sanders (I-VT), Sen. Merkley (D-OR) and Sen. Markey (D-MA)

Sec. 1. Short Title: “Prevent Future American Sickness Act of 2020”.

Sec. 2. Findings. The findings explain what PFAS are, how they impact public health, what the economic cost has been so far, states that are leading policy solutions.

Sec. 3. Definitions. The bill defines PFAS as the entire class of PFAS chemicals.

Sec. 4. Designation as Hazardous Substances. This provision direct the EPA to designate PFAS as a hazardous substance under CERCLA within a year.

Sec. 5 Water Infrastructure. This provision sets up authorizations for EPA grants for drinking and wastewater infrastructure to address PFAS contamination in publicly owned water treatment plants, and residential water wells.

Sec. 6. Prohibition against food contact substances containing perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances. This would ban all PFAS in food packaging.

Sec. 7. Listing of perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances as hazardous air pollutants. This would direct the EPA to list the class of PFAS chemicals as hazardous air pollutants under the Clean Air Act.

Sec. 8. Prohibition on waste incineration of PFAS. This provision would put a federal ban on all incineration of waste PFAS firefighting foam and direct the EPA to review other wastes containing PFAS that should also not be burned.

Sec. 9 Report by department of defense on fluorinated aqueous film forming foam. This would require the DoD to issue a report on where its stockpile of PFAS firefighting foam is and where it has been disposed by incineration in the past 10 years.