

TOXIC CHEMICALS CAN LEAD TO DISABILITY

There are toxic chemicals in the environment that have adverse consequences on health that can lead to physical and mental impairments. Some of these toxic chemicals can be found in solid waste. Some examples of toxic materials found in solid waste are food waste, clothing, consumer product packaging, office supplies, cosmetics, glass, metal food containers, household hazardous waste, demolition debris, materials generated at industrial facilities, medical waste, and sewage sludge from sewer treatment plants. There are other sources of toxic chemicals. Some of the legislative initiatives of the 109th Congress are:

- Imposing limitations on transport and dumping of toxic solid waste
- Security of chemical facilities
- Reduction of lead based paint
- Effective storage of MTBE
- Brownfields clean-ups

HR. 274: Solid Waste Interstate Transportation Act

Purpose:

No landfill may receive any out of State municipal solid waste unless a host community agrees

S. 439: Prevent MTBE Contamination Act

Purpose:

Underground storage tanks shall be secondarily contained and monitored for leaks

S. 346/HR.1718: Prohibit Importation of Canadian Waste

Purpose:

Prohibit the importation of municipal Canadian Waste

Municipal solid waste is disposal by households, public lodgings, commercial institutions, industrial sources and municipal solid waste collection services. It contains contaminated soils and debris, medical waste sewerage, sludge, ash from municipal incinerators, and other materials.

HR. 70 State Waste Empowerment and Enforcement Act

Purpose

States may limit out of State municipal solid waste received at each landfill

Action:

- Require companies to publicly disclose information about previous health and safety violations and petroleum contaminated soil
- Require inspectors at landfills

HR. 280: Brownfields Redevelopment Enhancement Act

Purpose:

Provide incentives to cleanup brownfield sites by de-linking fronts for brownfields development from community development loan guarantees and community development block grants.

HR. 433 Residential Lead-Based Paint Hazard Reduction Act

Purpose:

Priority consideration should be given to activities undertaken on properties listed on the National Priority List to reduce residential lead-based paint

HR. 593: Solid Waste Disposal Act

Purpose:

A State may enact a law imposing limitations of the receipt of foreign municipal solid waste

HR. 1562: Chemical Facility Security Act

Purposes:

Security of chemical facilities should be regulated

Findings:

- Terrorist attack on facilities that manufactures chemicals could pose a serious threat to public health, safety and welfare
- Manufactures share primary responsibility to protect the health and safety of workers, the public and the environment
- The accidental release of dangerous chemicals can place the safety of the public in jeopardy and should ensue appropriate security measures.

Action:

- Provision of security measures should include employee training, prevention of access to controls of chemical sources, installation of intrusion detection sensors, and computer network security
- There should be vulnerability assessments and site security plans

Regulatory Criteria:

- Likelihood a chemical source will be the target of terrorism
- The nature and quantity of the chemical substance of concern
- The potential threat of death and injury and consequence to human health, and scale of operation