

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE BILL ANALYSIS

AMENDMENT DATE: June 11, 2007  
POSITION: Neutral

BILL NUMBER: SB 774  
AUTHOR: M. Ridley-Thomas

**BILL SUMMARY: Hazardous Packaging**

Existing law prohibits the use of packaging that contains specified regulated metals, but exempts packaging that meets certain conditions. One of these conditions is that the packaging does not include material that contains more than 5.0 parts per million (ppm) of lead. This bill would revise the condition, as it applies to glass bottles, to specify that the exemption would not apply if the bottle contains lead in excess of 0.06 percent by weight of the total nonvolatile content of the paint or dried paint film.

The bill's intent is to reduce lead exposure from various brands of glass soda bottles imported into California from countries including Mexico, India and Panama. These bottles are often decorated with paint containing high levels of lead.

**FISCAL SUMMARY**

Toxics reports, and Finance concurs, that the cost of the bill would be minor and absorbable.

**SUMMARY OF CHANGES**

Amendments to this bill since our analysis of the April 9, 2007 version are minor and do not alter our position. The amendments merely clarify that the regulatory exemption would not apply if the bottle contains lead in excess of 0.06 percent by weight.

**COMMENTS**

Finance is neutral on this bill because it would have no fiscal impact.

The author states that the increasing popularity of imported sodas is creating a health risk as consumers become exposed to greater levels of lead through dermal absorption when they touch the bottles or hand-to-mouth contact when they eat hand-held food items like sandwiches after touching the bottles. The paint used to decorate these bottles can contain levels of lead several hundred times greater than the maximum permissible level specified by the Federal Consumer Product Safety Act for products manufactured in the United States.

Lead has been documented to be both a neurotoxin and a carcinogen, resulting in serious and sometimes irreversible behavioral, developmental, and neurological damage including impaired learning and birth defects. Moreover, even low levels of lead can result in adverse health effects, presenting serious health risks particularly for young children and pregnant women.

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Analyst/Principal (0683) T. Tatosian	Date	Program Budget Manager Karen Finn	Date
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Department Deputy Director	Date
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Governor's Office:	By:	Date:	Position Approved _____
			Position Disapproved _____

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**BILL ANALYSIS** Form DF-43 (Rev 03/95 Buff)

**BILL ANALYSIS/ENROLLED BILL REPORT--(CONTINUED)**

**AUTHOR**

**AMENDMENT DATE**

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M. Ridley-Thomas

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SB 774

Code/Department Agency or Revenue Type	SO LA CO RV	PROP 98	FC	(Fiscal Impact by Fiscal Year)			Fund Code
				2007-2008	2008-2009	2009-2010	
3960/ToxicSubCtrl	SO	No		-----	See Comment	-----	0014
<u>Fund Code</u>	<u>Title</u>						
0014	Hazardous Waste Control Account						