

111TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 2775

To prohibit, as a banned hazardous substance, certain household dishwashing detergent containing phosphorus.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 9, 2009

Mr. HIGGINS (for himself, Mr. HINCHEY, Mr. McGOVERN, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, and Ms. MCCOLLUM) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

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## A BILL

To prohibit, as a banned hazardous substance, certain household dishwashing detergent containing phosphorus.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-  
2       tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3       **SECTION 1. FINDINGS.**

4       Congress finds that—

5           (1) phosphorus loading of surface waters can  
6       stimulate the growth of weeds and algae, and that  
7       such growth can have adverse environmental, health,  
8       and aesthetic effects;

9           (2) household detergents contribute to phos-  
10       phorus loading, and limits on detergents containing

1       phosphorus can significantly reduce the discharge of  
2       phosphorus into the surface and ground waters;

3               (3) household detergents containing no or very  
4       low phosphorus are readily available, and over 30  
5       percent of the United States population lives in  
6       areas with a ban on detergents containing phos-  
7       phorus;

8               (4) phosphorus limits on household detergents  
9       can significantly reduce treatment costs at those  
10      sewage treatment facilities that remove phosphorus  
11      from the waste stream;

12               (5) while significant reductions of phosphorus  
13       from laundry detergent have been accomplished  
14       without Federal regulation, similar progress in re-  
15       ducing phosphorus contributions from dishwashing  
16       detergents has not been achieved; and

17               (6) detergents containing no or very low phos-  
18       phorus are not readily available for commercial and  
19       industrial use, and this Act is not intended to affect  
20       the sale or distribution of such items.

21 **SEC. 2. PHOSPHORUS IN DISHWASHING DETERGENT.**

22       (a) REGULATION AS A BANNED HAZARDOUS SUB-  
23       STANCE.—Not later than 270 days after the date of enact-  
24       ment of this Act, the Consumer Product Safety Commis-  
25       sion, pursuant to section 3 of the Federal Hazardous Sub-

1 stances Act (15 U.S.C. 1262), shall issue regulations de-  
2 claring dishwashing detergent intended for individual  
3 household use that contains phosphorus to be a banned  
4 hazardous substance under such Act.

5 (b) DEFINITION.—As used in this Act and for pur-  
6 poses of the regulations required under subsection (a), the  
7 term “dishwashing detergent intended for individual  
8 household use” means any soap or detergent marketed for  
9 the purpose of washing dishes and intended for use in indi-  
10 vidual households.

