

HB-1097

BANNING THE SALE OF ANIMAL-TESTED COSMETICS



PURPOSE

This bill prohibits selling, offering for sale, or transporting within Washington any cosmetic if the final product or a component ingredient of the product was subject to new animal testing.

SENSIBLE EXEMPTIONS

Limited exceptions allow for animal testing under certain conditions including testing done to satisfy regulatory requirements and to address specific and serious human health concerns. These exemptions mirror those found in the federal Humane Cosmetics Act.

COSMETICS INDUSTRY SUPPORT

The Humane Cosmetics Act, bipartisan legislation to end the production and sale of animal-tested cosmetics, has been endorsed by more than 340 individual companies. In addition, this legislation has the support of the Personal Care Products Council, the leading national trade association representing approximately 600 global cosmetics and personal care products companies, more than 90 percent of the U.S. beauty industry.

CRUEL AND UNNECESSARY

In traditional animal tests, rabbits, guinea pigs, mice and rats have substances forced down their throats, dripped into their eyes, or smeared onto their skin before they are killed. Fortunately, companies can create products using thousands of available ingredients that have a history of safe use and do not require new testing. For new ingredients, where animal testing may currently be used, many non-animal methods have been, and continue to be, developed. Cosmetic companies must substantiate safety of their products and ingredients before sale, but the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) does not require animal testing.

UNRELIABLE PREDICTORS

Animal tests are unreliable predictors of human safety. Different species can respond differently when exposed to the same chemicals. Consequently, animal tests may under- or over-estimate real-world hazards to people. In addition, results from animal tests can be quite variable and difficult to interpret. Unreliable and ineffective animal tests mean consumer safety cannot be guaranteed.

NOT COST-EFFECTIVE

Alternative test methods are more cost-effective than animal tests. Non-animal alternatives can combine human cell-based tests and complex computer models to deliver human-relevant results in hours or days, unlike some animal tests that can take months or years. Given that many animal-intensive tests often cost hundreds of thousands of dollars or more per test, these alternatives likely represent a cost-reduction for manufacturers. Furthermore, companies stand to lose money if they cannot sell their products in countries that have already banned imports of animal-tested cosmetics.

GLOBAL TRENDS

There is a global trend toward eliminating cosmetic animal testing. In 2013, the European Union (EU) finalized a ban on the production and sale of cosmetics tested on animals, compelling cosmetic companies to end animal testing and invest in the development of non-animal test methods in order to sell in the EU. 41 countries have now passed laws to end or limit cosmetic animal testing including the member states of the EU, Australia, Colombia, Guatemala, Iceland, India, Israel, Mexico, New Zealand, Norway, South Korea, Switzerland, Taiwan, Turkey, and the United Kingdom. In 2018, California became the first state in the country to ban the sale of cosmetics newly tested on animals. Nevada and Illinois passed similar legislation in 2019. In 2021, Virginia, Maryland, Maine, Hawaii and New Jersey passed prohibitions of new animal-tested cosmetics.



GET IN TOUCH

For more information:
please contact Joshua Diamond
joshd55.ari@gmail.com
animalrightsinitiative.org

