

HB140: "Hazardous Waste Constituent" Definition



Allows New Mexico to adopt standards for hazardous wastes the federal government has not yet adopted – putting New Mexicans in charge of protecting New Mexicans.

Why is this bill important?

The answer is simple: New Mexico Environment Department is better than the federal government at protecting our state's public health and the environment from hazardous wastes.

This bill grants New Mexico the authority to designate discarded substances, like PFAS and other man-made chemicals released into our environment, as hazardous waste.

The Environment Department will then enforce the cleanup of hazardous waste constituents that are not federally listed as hazardous wastes

Any new hazardous waste constituent identified by the NMED still requires the review and adoption by the Environmental Improvement Board through a public process.

With these amendments, New Mexico will join 21 other states legislatures that sought greater protections for their residents from hazardous wastes, such as PFAS and PCBs.

When signed into law, New Mexico will have clear authority to regulate the management and cleanup of hazardous wastes by the polluter – shifting the financial burden from taxpayers to the responsible party.

How will it benefit New Mexico?



Saves Taxpayer Money

- ✓ Places the cost of managing and cleaning up hazardous wastes on industry – not taxpayers.
- ✓ Allows the Environment Department to proactively prevent pollution before it happens, versus responding to it.



Protects Communities

- ✓ Reduces the accumulation of toxic chemicals in your body.
- ✓ Prevents hazardous wastes from contaminating our land and water.



Creates Legal Certainty

- ✓ Allows New Mexico to create clear standards to address the most acutely toxic pollutants.
- ✓ Affirms New Mexico's authority to regulate toxic PFAS pollution from federal polluters.

Sponsors: Representative Christine Chandler and Senator Jeff Steinborn

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