

to demolish or substantially renovate a property that requires a tenant to move. Notification requirements and relocation payments may vary based on income, age, and disability.

SECTION 6. SEVERANCE CLAUSE.

The determination or declaration that any provision of this act is beyond the authority of the general court or is preempted by law or regulation shall not affect the validity or enforceability of any other provisions.

SECTION 7. EFFECTIVE DATE.

This act shall take effect immediately upon signing by the Governor.

Or act on anything relative thereto.

ARTICLE 17

Submitted by: Moderator's Committee on PFAS (Jesse Hefter, TMM 14; Anita Johnson, TMM 8; Alisa Jonas, TMM 16, Chair;* John Kleschinsky, DPH; Clint Richmond, TMM 6) *primary contact

To see if the Town will adopt the following Resolution:

Resolution urging the Town to avoid the purchase or use of products containing fluorinated hydrocarbons ("forever chemicals")

WHEREAS the Town of Brookline strives to implement policies to protect and improve the health and safety of its citizens;

WHEREAS fluorinated hydrocarbons (also known as organofluorines), including per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances ("PFAS"), are a group of thousands of primarily synthetic organic chemicals that contain carbon-fluorine bonds, a condition that occurs in nature only rarely;

WHEREAS the carbon-fluorine bond is so strong, these chemicals persist in our environment, and are thus often called "Forever Chemicals;"

WHEREAS some fluorinated compounds enter our food chain and accumulate in living organisms;

WHEREAS some fluorinated compounds have been associated with severe health effects in humans at very low levels, i.e., parts per trillion (ppt), including:

- kidney, thyroid and testicular cancers, hormone disruption and lowered sex and growth hormones in children, and altered mammary gland development,

- immune system effects, such as decreased response to vaccines in children,
- high cholesterol, thyroid disease, and hypertension;

WHEREAS the production of synthetic petrochemicals is energy intensive and generates large amount of greenhouse gasses;

WHEREAS fluorinated chemicals are widely used to manufacture non-stick, grease, and stain-resistant coatings in a variety of industrial and consumer products, including propellants, food packaging, non-stick cookware, stain-resistant carpets and upholstery, furniture, construction materials, ski wax, floor wax, paint, lubricants, outdoor gear, synthetic turf, and firefighting foams and fire-protective personal protective equipment;

WHEREAS over 6,400 PFAS-related lawsuits for endangering public health and harming and destroying natural resources have been filed in federal courts between July 2005 and March 2022;

WHEREAS in 2022, a bipartisan coalition of 22 state attorneys general (AGs), which included then AG Maura Healey, filed a class action lawsuit against PFAS manufacturers such as 3M, DuPont, Chemours, and Corteva for drinking water pollution and other harms, which likely will be settled for an amount exceeding \$10 billion;

WHEREAS Massachusetts, Maine, Vermont, and Rhode Island have begun to regulate PFAS in drinking water, and Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and Vermont have done so for groundwater (all at levels not to exceed 20 ppt);

WHEREAS in 2009, the Town of Brookline adopted the policy of purchasing Environmentally Friendly Cleaning Products through the GreenSeal certification that now includes PFAS-free products;

WHEREAS several municipalities across the country, such as the City of San Francisco, have adopted environmentally preferable purchasing policies that include the avoidance of PFAS;

WHEREAS the Materials Buyers Club, of which the City of San Francisco and Harvard University are members, seeks to avoid the purchase of products that contain PFAS, PVC, and other chemicals of concern from building materials and furnishings;

WHEREAS there are resources available to the Town of Brookline to guide their purchasing decisions, including the Harvard Sustainability Department Compliant Matrix Protocol and the San Francisco Approved list for various product categories;

WHEREAS the Commonwealth's Operational Services Division (OSD) published, in May 2023, an extensive guide (prepared by the Responsible Purchasing Network) for all state procurement offices to assist them in avoiding PFAS in products purchased through state contracts, titled *A Slick New Guide to Avoiding PFAS (Forever Chemicals) in Products Using Massachusetts Statewide Contracts*

(<https://www.mass.gov/files/documents/2023/05/11/OSD%20PFAS%20Free%20Purchasing%20Guide.pdf>);

WHEREAS President Biden issued Executive Order No. 14057 on Dec. 8, 2021 that incorporates the Federal Sustainability Plan to leverage the federal government's procurement powers to prioritize the procurement of products that contain no added PFAS;

WHEREAS many other states have enacted laws to ban the presence of PFAS in a variety of products;

WHEREAS the State of Maine became the first government body to require that as of January 1, 2023, manufacturers have been required to report the presence of intentionally added PFAS in their products; and under the same law, the State has prohibited the sale of carpets, rugs, and fabric treatments that contain intentionally added PFAS, also effective January 1, 2023; and effective January 1, 2030, any product containing intentionally added PFAS may not be sold in Maine unless the use of PFAS in the product is specifically designated as a currently unavoidable use by the Department. (Maine Public Law c. 477, An Act To Stop Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances Pollution, July 2021);

WHEREAS Massachusetts is among the minority of states that has not yet enacted bans on the presence of PFAS in products, though such legislation currently has been filed during the 2023-2024 legislative session;

WHEREAS the Town of Brookline Department of Public Health and Human Services aims to limit resident's PFAS exposure through community education and consumer awareness and has recently focused on making information on PFAS easily accessible by creating a series of education content pieces that include flyers, videos, and social media infographics, a website page on the Town website, and collaboration with the Economic Development Department to conduct a business survey whose findings will inform future PFAS education and outreach efforts;

WHEREAS Town departments have already taken measures to reduce PFAS exposure in products purchased by the Town, including the following:

- The Fire Department is actively engaged in reducing PFAS exposure to its firefighters and the public by purchasing Class B firefighting foam that is PFAS-free and is no longer having firefighters wear their PFAS-containing protective gear when responding to EMT calls;
- Brookline Public Schools Food Services has reduced staff and student exposure to PFAS by eliminating non-stick cook and bakeware across the schools and by transitioning to recyclable or compostable "grab and go" containers that are certified by the Biodegradable Products Institute as being PFAS-free;
- The Building Department has switched hand soaps in all buildings to a PFAS-free alternative, and is engaged in searching for suppliers of other materials that are certified PFAS-free;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Town Meeting urges that:

1. The Town of Brookline purchase and use products that are free of fluorinated chemical ingredients where such products are available in the marketplace, and encourage its suppliers to develop organofluorine-free products that do not have ready substitutes;

2. The Town of Brookline urge the Commonwealth's legislators to support state-wide regulation of products containing fluorinated hydrocarbons, such as S.1356 / H.2197 An Act to Protect Massachusetts Public Health from PFAS.

Or act on anything relative thereto.

ARTICLE 18

Submitted by: Jonathan Margolis, TMM7, Neil R. Gordon, TMM1

To see if the Town will adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS, there is much interest in making the operation of Brookline's government fairer and more efficient, and

WHEREAS, there are many forms and permutations for municipal government in Massachusetts; and

WHEREAS, among those active in Town government, there is currently a debate about the best form for Brookline's government; and

WHEREAS, democratic government depends upon an informed electorate; and

WHEREAS, the details of various forms of government are not widely known, and

WHEREAS, the voters may subsequently be asked whether to adopt substantial changes to the form of Brookline's government;

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved that Town Meeting,

- a. Requests that the Moderator appoint a committee to examine the various forms of municipal government in Massachusetts as they relate to Brookline;
- b. that the committee evaluate the positive and negative aspects of such forms, including fiscal impacts;
- c. that the committee be empowered to recommend among various proposals or alternative forms for Brookline government, if it chooses to do so; and
- d. that the committee be directed to report its findings, and any recommendations, to Town Meeting no later than August 31, 2024, or such other date as the Moderator may select.

or act on anything relative thereto.

ARTICLE 19

Reports of Town Officers and Committees