

**An Act to Require Environmentally Safe Alternatives to Harmful Cleaning
Products
HD 3218**

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The League of Women Voters urges you to support the bill “An Act to Require Environmentally Safe Alternatives to Harmful Cleaning Products” - HD 3218.

Lead Sponsor: Rep. Frank Smizik

Purpose of the Bill: To reduce asthma and other health threats from emissions of toxic chemicals used in schools, daycare centers, public buildings and common areas of public housing. This bill could be viewed as is a smaller version of the Safer Alternatives to Toxic Chemicals bill, addressing only one group of toxic products which have safer alternatives readily available.

Talking Points:

- Research shows that cleaning products contribute to children’s asthma in school and to poor indoor air quality.
- Research shows that cleaning workers are often injured and have serious health issues resulting from their frequent contact with toxic cleaning products.
- No new agency or research would be needed to implement this bill.
- The Safer Cleaning Products list is already available and will be updated through the Massachusetts Dept of Public Health’s (DPH) Operational Services Division (OSD).
- Reasonable fees on toxic cleaning products would fund this bill.
- The safer cleaning products approved by the DPH are comparable in cleaning effectiveness and are already in use in some of the Commonwealth’s public buildings.
- Safer cleaning products are defined as:
 1. Non-toxic to humans
 2. Not containing any ingredients that are carcinogenic or known to cause reproductive toxicity
 3. Not containing ingredients determined to be asthma-causing
 4. Not corrosive to the skin or eyes
 5. Not a sensitizer
 6. Not combustible
 7. Not contributing to photochemical smog
 8. Not a cause of tropospheric ozone depletion or poor indoor air quality
 9. Nontoxic to aquatic life
 10. Exhibits biodegradability.