

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
2026 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**  
**First Reader**

Senate Bill 656  
Finance

(Senator Henson)

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**Public Health - Cosmetic Products - Enforcement and Penalties for Prohibited Ingredients (Crown and Care Act - Protecting Communities From Harmful Hair Chemicals)**

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This bill specifies that, in addition to existing civil and criminal penalties, a person who violates the prohibition on knowingly manufacturing, selling, delivering, holding, or offering for sale in the State a cosmetic product that contains any of 24 listed intentionally added ingredients is liable for civil damages sustained by the individual resulting from the violation. In any action brought to enforce the bill, a court may award reasonable attorney's fees to a prevailing plaintiff. The Maryland Department of Health (MDH) may investigate any complaint alleging that a person has violated the prohibition. On receipt of a complaint, a representative of MDH, at a reasonable time, may enter and inspect the premises of the person to determine compliance. The person may not refuse to grant access to the representative or interfere with an inspection. An investigation may include sampling of a cosmetic product to determine if the cosmetic product contains a technically unavoidable trace quantity of a prohibited ingredient. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2026.**

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** MDH can investigate complaints and conduct inspections using existing resources. Any impact on the operations of the Judiciary is assumed to be minimal and absorbable with existing resources. Revenues are not affected.

**Local Effect:** The bill is not expected to materially affect local government finances or operations

**Small Business Effect:** Minimal.

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## Analysis

**Current Law:** Chapter 490 of 2021 prohibits a person from knowingly manufacturing, selling, delivering, holding, or offering for sale in the State, a cosmetic product that contains any of 24 listed intentionally added ingredients, which include formaldehyde, mercury, and several per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances and their salts. The prohibition took effect on January 1, 2025.

A person is not in violation of this prohibition if the person manufactures, sells, delivers, holds, or offers for sale in the State, a cosmetic product that (1) was manufactured through a process intended to comply with the prohibition and (2) contains a technically unavoidable trace quantity of a prohibited ingredient due to an impurity of an ingredient, the manufacturing process, storage, or packaging.

A person who violates any of these prohibitions is subject to both criminal and civil penalties. More specifically, a violator is guilty of a misdemeanor, and upon conviction, a fine of up to \$10,000 and/or imprisonment for up to one year for the first conviction, and a fine of up to \$25,000 and/or imprisonment for up to three years for a second or subsequent conviction. In addition, a person who violates Title 21, Subtitle 2 of the Health-General Article is subject to a civil penalty of up to \$5,000 in any District Court and can be enjoined from continuing the violation. Each day on which a violation occurs is a separate violation.

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## Additional Information

**Recent Prior Introductions:** Similar legislation has not been introduced within the last three years.

**Designated Cross File:** HB 1533 (Delegate Alston, *et al.*) - Health.

**Information Source(s):** Maryland Association of County Health Officers; Judiciary (Administrative Office of the Courts); Maryland Department of the Environment; Maryland Department of Health; Maryland Department of Labor; Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 25, 2026  
jg/jc

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