
SENATE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Senator Sabrina Cervantes, Chair
2025 - 2026 Regular Session

AB 1901 (Berman) - Children's diapers: intentionally added ingredients: disclosure

Version: June 25, 2026

Urgency: No

Hearing Date: August 3, 2026

Policy Vote: E.Q. 7 - 0

Mandate: No

Consultant: Ashley Ames

Bill Summary: This bill would require manufacturers of children's diapers to list all intentionally added ingredients in the diapers.

Fiscal Impact:

- Costs for the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) could vary depending on the level of implementation because this bill would authorize—but not require--DTSC--to implement its provisions. However, if DTSC were to fully implement the bill, the department estimates ongoing costs of at least \$535,000 in fiscal year 2027-2028, \$750,000 in 2028-29, and \$685,000 annually thereafter (Toxic Substances Control Account [TSCA]) to adopt regulations to implement, enforce, interpret, or make specific the provisions of this bill and to enforce the bill's requirements. Some of these costs may be offset by penalty revenue resulting from enforcement actions.
- Possible cost pressures (Trial Court Trust Fund [TCTF], General Fund) of an unknown amount to the trial courts in increased workload. Actual costs would depend on the number of cases filed and the amount of court time needed to resolve each case. It generally costs approximately \$1,000 to operate a courtroom for one hour. Although courts are not funded on the basis of workload, increased pressure on the TCTF may create a demand for increased funding for courts from the General Fund. The Governor's January budget for FY 2026-27 provides \$70 million ongoing General Fund to the TCTF for court operations.
- The Department of Justice anticipates minor and absorbable costs.

Background:

Diaper use in the United States. A 2025 *Environmental Science & Technology* article reports that Americans use 27.4 billion disposable diapers annually at a cost exceeding \$9 billion, with the average child using roughly 7,000 before toilet training. Users include young children, some children past toilet training, and seniors and others with incontinence — a group that includes over 20 million women in the United States alone.

Components of diapers. A March 13, 2026 Consumer Reports article describes a typical disposable child's diaper as an assembly of many layers and parts: a top sheet against the skin, usually cotton and plastics like polyethylene and polypropylene; an acquisition layer holding waste until it disperses, typically polyester, polypropylene, and polyethylene; a core absorbent layer of superabsorbent polymers, cellulose, wood pulp, and fluff pulp; a waterproof back sheet of polypropylene, polyethylene, polyurethane, and calcium carbonate; and waist closure systems and leg cuffs made of elastics and similar plastics. Several components are routinely undisclosed. Manufacturers typically

do not identify their adhesives, though some list polyolefin-based adhesives, hydrocarbon resins, synthetic rubber, or styrene-based adhesives; nor their inks and pigments, though some list Pigment Blue 15, Pigment Red 57, Pigment Violet 23, titanium dioxide, or D&C Black No. 2; nor the composition of wetness indicators, though two companies Consumer Reports evaluated list bromocresol green, a pH-sensitive dye. Fragrances used to mask odors are generally withheld on trade secret grounds. Lotions and ointments, where used, typically include petrolatum, mineral oil, stearyl alcohol, and aloe or other plant extracts.

Exposure concerns. Diapers sit in constant, direct contact with skin, and the vast majority are worn by young children and older adults — populations whose thin, sensitive skin is especially vulnerable to chemical exposure. Repeated contact with urine, feces, and excessive moisture can weaken the skin barrier that otherwise offers protection, and some wearers have growing, damaged, or deteriorated skin that raises the risk of complications such as diaper dermatitis. Diapers also contact external genitalia and tissues such as the vulva, which have high chemical permeability.

Proposed Law: This bill would require, by January 1, 2029, manufacturers of children's diapers to list on their web page all intentionally added ingredients in children's diapers, and would require, by that same date, packages of children's diapers distributed or manufactured in the state to include a list of all intentionally added ingredients in the diapers.

This bill would:

1. Define "children's diaper," "intentionally added ingredients," and "package."
2. Require the manufacturer of any children's diapers sold, distributed, or manufactured in the state, on or before January 1, 2029, to display on a web page on its internet website, and on the product details page on the website where the diapers are sold, a list of all intentionally added ingredients, organized in an easily and publicly identifiable manner and including for each ingredient:
 - a. Chemical or raw material name.
 - b. The Chemical Abstract Service (CAS) number.
 - c. All specific functions or purposes for use in the children's diapers.
3. Require that all information on the website and package be clearly grouped and displayed in order of chemical or raw material weight, with each ingredient's name, CAS number, and function or purpose listed alongside each other.
4. Require all children's diapers distributed or manufactured in the state, on or before January 1, 2029, to include on the outermost package, in an easily and publicly identifiable manner:
 - a. A list of all the intentionally added ingredients in the children's diapers.
 - b. An internet website address for a web page providing the information required above.
5. Require all children's diapers sold in the state, on or before July 1, 2029, to include that same package information.

6. Prohibit a person from selling, distributing, or manufacturing children's diapers in the state that do not comply with these requirements.
7. Permit DTSC to enforce this chapter, specifically stipulating:
 - a. A person in violation would be liable for an administrative or civil penalty not to exceed \$5,000 for the first violation and not to exceed \$10,000 for each subsequent violation.
 - b. Penalties could be assessed for each violation or, for continuing violations, for each day a violation continues.
 - c. A prevailing party would be entitled to an award of reasonable attorney's fees and costs.
 - d. That this would not impair or impede any other rights, causes of action, claims, or defenses available under any other law, and that the remedies provided would be cumulative with any other remedies available under any other law.
8. Authorize DTSC to adopt regulations to implement, enforce, interpret, or make specific this chapter.
9. Authorize the use of funds in TSCA, upon appropriation by the Legislature, for DTSC to implement this chapter, and require penalties collected under this section to be deposited into that account.
10. Provide that the section's provisions would be severable.

Related Legislation:

AB 1989 (Cristina Garcia, Chapter 272, Statutes of 2020) requires a package containing menstrual products that was manufactured on or after January 1, 2023, to have printed on the label a plain and conspicuous list of all ingredients, as defined and specified, in the product, by weight; requires the same information to be posted on an internet website, as specified; prohibits the sale of a menstrual product unless the menstrual product and the manufacturer of the menstrual product comply with the specified labeling requirements of the bill.

SB 312 (Leyva, Chapter 315, Statutes of 2020) requires, commencing January 1, 2022, a manufacturer of a cosmetic product sold in the state to disclose to the Division of Environmental and Occupational Disease Control within the State Department of Public Health a list of each fragrance or flavor ingredient that is included on a designated list, as defined, and a list of each fragrance allergen that is present in the cosmetic product in specified concentrations. It also requires, commencing January 1, 2022, the Division of Environmental and Occupational Disease Control to post on its existing database of cosmetic product information a list of those fragrance and flavor ingredients and their associated health hazards.

SB 258 (Lara, Chapter 258, Statutes of 2017) requires a manufacturer of a specified cleaning product to disclose, as specified, on the product label and on the product's

internet website information related to chemicals contained in the designated product. It also prohibits the sale in the state of a designated product that does not satisfy these requirements.

Staff Comments: For context, as part of the Governor's fiscal year (FY) 2026-27 budget, DTSC requested \$3.1 million (various funds) and nine permanent positions in FY 2026-27 and \$2.5 million in FY 2027-28 and ongoing to implement and enforce various product ban bills, including SB 1266 (Limón), Chapter 790, Statutes of 2024, which prohibits the manufacture, sale, or distribution of any juvenile feeding, sucking, or teething product that contains bisphenol, and requires DTSC to enforce and establish specified standards for juvenile products.

TSCA is supported by the Environmental Fee, an annual fee paid by California businesses and organizations that use, generate, store, or conduct activities related to, hazardous materials. "Hazardous material" is defined in Health and Safety Code (HSC) section 25501 and in Title 22 of the California Code of Regulations (CCR) section 66269.40(a)(3). The amount of the Environmental Fee is based on the number of employees employed in California by an organization. DTSC notes that the costs imposed by this bill could result in a fee increase of up to 1 percent.

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