

SAFER CHOICE PROGRAM AUTHORIZATION ACT

Senator Chris Coons (D-DE) |

Overview

As new products continually appear on store shelves, American families, businesses, and purchasers are left to decide which ones contain ingredients that are safer for human health and the environment. This is why the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) created the Safer Choice label, because identifying safer products should be easy. The Safer Choice Program Authorization Act directs the EPA to carry out a voluntary Safer Choice Program, aligning with the existing label, that would use science, regulatory developments, and innovation to identify and promote Safer Choice or DfE standards in products, to advance pollution prevention through safer chemical design.

About Safer Choice



Safer Product Labeling began in the mid-2000s, to add incentives to the chemical selection process for producers. The label now identifies nearly 2000 products as meeting the Safer Choice Standard. These criteria ensure products pass category-specific performance standards, and that they perform comparably to conventional products. It also requires that partners use sustainable packaging measures for recognized products.

Bill Summary

On top of directing the EPA to carry out the program, the Safer Choice Program Authorization Act would:

- Define Safer Choice Criteria for evaluation to include human health impacts, environmental impacts, product performance, packaging sustainability, and transparency & disclosure.
- Require the EPA to maintain a public database of approved products.
- Establish voluntary participation in the program that would allow for qualifying products to receive labels designated as official EPA marks, prohibiting the use of misleading labels.
- Require the EPA to submit and publish an annual report to Congress detailing program participation, outreach and stakeholder engagement, recommendations for improvement and updates to standards and procedures.

Endorsing Organizations



Staff Contacts

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