SENATE BILL REPORT
SB 5975

As of January 12, 2026

Title: An act relating to providing consumer access to safe cookware and interstate and international trade certainty in the regulation of lead in cookware.

Brief Description: Providing consumer access to safe cookware and interstate and international trade certainty in the regulation of lead in cookware.

Sponsors: Senators Harris and Cleveland.

Brief History:
Committee Activity: Environment, Energy & Technology: 1/14/26.

Brief Summary of Bill

- Modifies covered cookware to exclude cookware with a stainless steel food contact surface, large appliances, and cookware with de minimis lead content.
- Allows cookware to demonstrate compliance with the lead content standards through the federal Food and Drug Administration or international testing methods.
- Extends the compliance date for 2028 to 2030 for the ten parts per million lead content limitation.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT, ENERGY & TECHNOLOGY

Staff: Alicia Kinne-Clawson (786-7407)

Background: In 2024, the Washington State Legislature passed the Cookware Containing Lead law which prohibited the sale of cookware containing lead or lead compounds at concentrations greater that five parts per million (ppm). In 2025, this law was amended to apply to certain types of aluminum or brass cookware, cookware components, and utensils.

This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.

The allowable threshold for lead in cookware was modified in 2025 from 5 ppm to 90 ppm beginning January 1, 2026. The allowable lead threshold decreases to ten ppm beginning January 1, 2028.

The Department of Ecology, in consultation with the Department of Health, may lower the ten ppm limit for lead in cookware beginning after December 2030.

The federal Food and Drug Administration (FDA) monitors levels of lead in foods and leachable lead levels in cookware. There are no FDA regulations that authorize lead for use as a color additive or food additive—including as a component of foodware, cookware, or food contact surfaces. In order to protect public health, FDA monitors levels of lead in foods and leachable lead levels in cookware.

Summary of Bill: The definition of covered cookware is modified to exclude:

- cookware with a stainless steel food contact surface and de minimis amount of exposed aluminum or brass parts;
- stoves, ranges, and similar large appliances; and
- cookware with incidental or de minimis amounts of lead.

Narrows the definition of aluminum or brass cookware components to be specific parts or food contact surfaces enclosed in stainless steel or a coating approved by the FDA.

The compliance date for the ten ppm maximum allowable lead content is extended from 2028 to 2030. A manufacturer, retailer, or wholesaler to be exempt from the ten ppm requirement if they demonstrate the cookware is compliant with the FDA or European directorate for the quality of medicines and health care accepted testing requirements for lead in cookware.

Cookware that was manufactured before December 31, 2025 and is repaired after January 1, 2028 is exempt from the lead in cookware requirements.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Requested on January 9, 2026.

Creates Committee/Commission/Task Force that includes Legislative members: No.

Effective Date: Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.