FINAL BILL REPORT
ESSB 5975

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Synopsis as Enacted

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

Sponsors: Senate Committee on Environment, Energy & Technology (originally sponsored by Senators Harris, Cleveland and Hasegawa).

Senate Committee on Environment, Energy & Technology
Senate Committee on Ways & Means
House Committee on Environment & Energy

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.

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 (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: The definition of covered cookware is modified to exclude the electrical components of electronic cooking devices.

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.

Beginning January 1, 2027, no manufacturer may sell, offer for sale, distribute for sale, or distribute for use aluminum or brass cookware, utensils, or cookware components that contain lead which was intentionally added.

The 90 ppm lead level limit is applicable to cookware manufactured on or after January 1, 2026. The ten ppm lead content standard is eliminated.

Beginning January 1, 2030, a lead limit for aluminum or brass pots or pans of 50 ppm is established. Beginning January 1, 2034, the lead limit for aluminum or brass pots or pans drops to 20 ppm. Pots or pans are specified to include certain types of cookware, including internal pots for devices such as rice cookers or pressure cookers.

Ecology must develop and make available guidance to manufacturers regarding covered items, testing methods, compliance, and enforcement.

Safer Products. Cookware containing lead is added as a priority product under the Safer Products Program beginning with the June 1, 2029 review cycle. Cookware includes cookware components and utensils. Ecology must adopt a lead content standard that is either 20 ppm of the lowest lead limit that is feasible. In evaluating cookware as a priority product, to the extent feasible, Ecology must consider the entire lifecycle of the product, including when surfaces become damaged, scratched, or heavily used. Ecology may also consider the end-of-life management and recyclability of the product.

Under rules adopted under Safer Products, Ecology may exempt cookware and cookware components from the statutory 20 ppm lead limits. As appropriate, Ecology must adopt discrete exemptions under Safer Products for categories of cookware, such as noncooking surfaces, for which it is not feasible to meet the 2034 limits of 20 ppm for lead in aluminum or brass pots and pans. Ecology may not adopt restrictions on aluminum or brass pots or pans or their components at a level higher than 20 ppm.

Regulatory determinations made by Ecology under Safer Products with regard to lead in covered aluminum or brass cookware supersede the 90, 50, or 20 ppm lead limit on covered aluminum or brass cookware, to the extent that there is any conflict between statutory limits and Safer Products rules.

Ecology may order cookware manufacturers to submit data on lead levels in their products. To the extent practicable, Ecology must make the data publicly available. Manufacturers that fail to comply may be subject to per product penalties.

Votes on Final Passage:

Senate	42	7	
House	86	10	(House amended)
Senate	47	2	(Senate concurred)

Effective: June 11, 2026