

SB 1143 – PAINTCARE EXPANSION

SENATOR BEN ALLEN

Fact Sheet

SUMMARY

SB 1143, *as amended August 15th*, will expand California’s successful paint stewardship program, known as PaintCare, by adding remaining paint and paint-related product categories that can be managed under PaintCare’s existing program. This expansion will help protect the environment and provide convenient end-of-life management access for consumers, while reducing financial and logistical burdens to local governments by managing paint and allied products in a single program.

BACKGROUND

Each year about 850 million gallons of architectural paint are sold in the United States, with approximately 10 percent going unused. If improperly managed unused paint can be hazardous to public health and the environment, however, this leftover can be reused and recycled.

In 2010, the Legislature passed California’s first paint stewardship law (AB 1343, Huffman), which established the state’s PaintCare program, overseen by Cal Recycle. The law requires the paint manufacturing industry to operate a financially sustainable and environmentally responsible program to manage postconsumer (leftover) architectural paint.

PaintCare’s program includes education about buying the right amount of paint, tips for using up remaining paint, and setting up convenient recycling locations throughout the state. Once collected, leftover paint can largely be diverted from landfills and be reused or recycled. To date, PaintCare has established 875 year-round drop-off sites, continues to work with local jurisdictions and retailers throughout California, and has collected over 34 million gallons of paint from residents.

While aerosol coatings were added to the program in 2023 (AB 1526, Assembly Committee on Natural Resources), certain nonindustrial coatings and

coating-related products such as automotive refinish paint, marine and antifouling paints, and surface adhesives, are still not included in the program.

Cal Recycle is just beginning the regulatory process to add aerosols to the program, which are currently slated to be included in the program no later than January 1, 2027.

SOLUTION

SB 1143 adds all remaining paint products under California’s existing PaintCare Program by:

- Incorporating nonindustrial coatings and coating-related products (as defined) into the existing Program.
- Aligning implementation timelines for both new product categories and aerosol coatings to ease implementation.
- Renaming the Chapter the “Paint Product Recovery Program” and updating the statute generally to align with existing program practices and regulations.

SB 1143 will ease implementation of the stewardship program for the paint industry and consumers by creating consistency. Passage of SB 1143 this year will also take advantage of the planned regulatory work already occurring to implement AB 1526 changes, reducing the fiscal impact to Cal Recycle.

SUPPORT

National Stewardship Action Council (sponsor)
American Coatings Association

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