



DOAA

Georgia Department
of Audits & Accounts

Greg S. Griffin
State Auditor

January 26, 2026

Honorable Kim Schofield
State Representative
608-B Coverdell Legislative Office Building
Atlanta, Georgia 30334

SUBJECT: Fiscal Note
House Bill 9 (LC 52 0613)

Dear Representative Schofield:

This bill would prohibit the sale of certain consumer products treated with chemical flame retardants prohibited by the bill. Consumer products impacted include bedding, carpeting, children's products, residential upholstered furniture, and window treatments. Retailers and manufacturers could no longer sell the products, and manufacturers must notify retailers if their products contain prohibited retardants. A manufacturer or retailer that violates the law would be subject to civil penalties. The Office of the Commissioner of Insurance and Safety Fire (OCI) would be responsible for determining if additional chemical flame retardants should be added to the prohibited list every three years and for enforcing the prohibition on products.

As part of our effort to estimate the cost of the bill, we identified another state that passed similar legislation in 2021 (Massachusetts). The bill assigned responsibilities to the state's Department of Environmental Protection and directed the agency to work with an existing university program to update the list of prohibited chemical flame retardants every three years. Massachusetts officials stated that existing environmental staff were able to implement the program over a multi-year period without additional resources. The provisions went into effect in 2025, and the agency has not experienced a large number of complaints to investigate.

As shown in **Table 1**, OCI's implementation would require start-up costs and additional personnel due to the absence of regulatory infrastructure similar to that of the Massachusetts agency responsible for comparable duties. To handle expected complaints, OCI would need to upgrade its complaint management system. The agency anticipated the complaint workload would require four new positions within the existing Special Hazards Division, and these positions would require one-time costs for equipment. (Field inspections would be performed by existing building inspectors.) Other costs include system licenses for the four employees (annual) and a contract for the required triennial review of chemicals for potential addition to the prohibited list. The contract amount is unknown.¹

¹ Massachusetts has a Toxics Use Reduction Institute at a state university that reviews and recommends additions to its list.

Table 1: Projected Costs

Annual Costs	
Item	Cost
Four Complaints Analysts	316,791
Four System Licenses	7,200
Annual Total	\$323,991
Triennial Costs	
Item	Cost
Chemical Review	Unknown
One-time Costs	
Item	Cost
Staff Equipment	12,000
System Upgrade	50,000
One-time Total	62,000

Respectfully,



Greg S. Griffin
State Auditor



Richard Dunn, Director
Office of Planning and Budget

GSG/RD/mt