

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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OFFICE OF
THE GOVERNOR

NO. 03 FY 02/03
DATE December 17, 2002

PROCUREMENT OF MERCURY FREE PRODUCTS

WHEREAS, the Governor, as the state's Chief Executive, has oversight responsibility for agency actions; and

WHEREAS, Maine lakes and rivers have fish consumption advisories due to the presence of unhealthy amounts of mercury; and

WHEREAS, use and disposal of mercury-added products contributes to the presence of unhealthy mercury levels in fish; and

WHEREAS, the Governor has joined with governors in other New England states and Eastern Canadian premiers in calling for the virtual elimination of mercury-added products and other anthropogenic sources of mercury; and

WHEREAS, mercury-free or low mercury alternatives exist for many consumer products that currently contain mercury; and

WHEREAS, state agencies can promote the goal of mercury reduction by giving preference to purchase of mercury-free and low mercury products; and

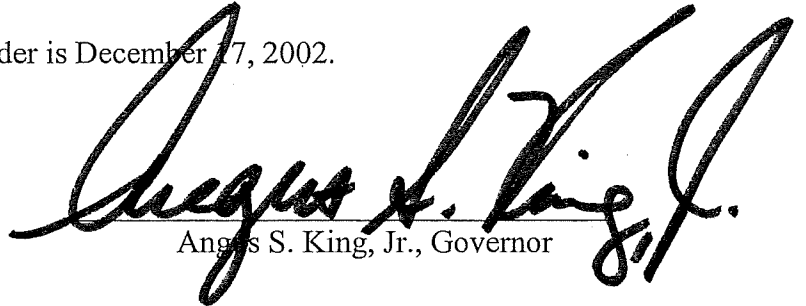
WHEREAS, such action is consistent with the Clean Government Initiative under which Maine state agencies have taken numerous actions to reduce their use of toxic substances and procure alternatives that are environmentally benign;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Angus King, by the authority vested in me as Governor, do hereby order the agencies of the State of Maine as follows:

1. Agencies shall eliminate the purchase of products to which mercury is added during manufacture or formulation if mercury-free alternatives of comparable performance are available at reasonable cost.

2. Where mercury-free alternatives of comparable performance are not available at reasonable cost, agencies shall give preference to the purchase of functional, reasonable cost product makes and models containing the lowest amount of added mercury and bearing a mercury content warning label where required under Maine law.
3. The Department of Administration and Financial Services shall ensure these practices are reflected in the administrative purchasing policies and procedures of the state no later than January 1, 2003.
4. The Department of Environmental Protection shall assist the Department of Administration and Financial Services in identifying mercury-added products and low and mercury-free alternatives to those products.

The effective date of this Executive Order is December 17, 2002.



Angus S. King, Jr., Governor