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Virtual State Ban of PCB by 1978 Passes House

LANSING (UPI) — PCB, the industrial chemical that has been linked to the deaths of Great Lakes fish and the birds and animals that eat them, would be all but banned in Michigan under legislation passed by the state House.

The proposal, which would make Michigan the first state to control PCB use, was sent to the Senate on a 101-2 vote Tuesday.

It provides for the phasing out of most

PCB use by Jan. 1, 1978, except in closed electrical systems.

In other action Tuesday, the House approved and sent to the Senate measures allowing local schools to establish meal programs for senior citizens and permitting communities to use part of their share of the motor fuel tax for off-street parking and street lighting.

PCB, formally known as polychlorinated biphenyl, has been used since 1929

in a variety of industrial processes such as hydraulic and heat transfer fluids, insulation, adhesives, laminates, textile

coverings, varnishes, paints, plastics and dyes.

The chemical has accumulated in dangerous levels in the Great Lakes — particularly Lake Michigan.

By Jan. 1, 1978, no item containing more than 100 parts per million of PCB could be used in Michigan and if the Department of Natural Resources determined that even a small quantity was harmful, the chemical could be banned altogether.