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House Passes PCB Ban Bill

ST. PAUL, Minn. (UPI) — The House Thursday passed the bill restricting the use of the industrial chemical known as polychlorinated biphenyls or PCBs.

The vote was 128-0. The measure now goes to the Senate.

Rep. Willard Munger, DFL-Duluth, said there was "an extremely dangerous" problem posed by the continued use of the chemical which is used mainly as a coolant fluid in electrical transformers.

He said high levels of PCB have been found in fish taken from Lake Pepin and other public waters in the state.

Under his bill anyone wanting to use the chemical would have to get a special exemption from the Pollution Control Agency which would have to make a finding that no suitable or feasible alternative was available.

Later in the day the Senate gave preliminary approval to a nursing home bill by Sen. John Milton, DFL-White Bear Lake.

The proposal requires disclosure of ownership of nursing homes and calls for stricter controls. A similar bill is awaiting action on the House floor.

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