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House passes bill limiting use of PCBs

The Minnesota House has passed the bill restricting the use of an industrial chemical, polychlorinated biphenyls, or PCBs.

The vote was 128-0

Rep. Willard Munger, DFL-Duluth, said an extremely dangerous problem is posed by the continued use of the chemical, used mainly as a coolant in electrical transformers. He said high levels of PCBs 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 an exemption from the Pollution Control Agency which would have to find that no feasible alternative is available.

The measure goes to the Senate.

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