REVENUE: No revenue impact
FISCAL: Minimal fiscal impact, no statement issued

Action:	Do Pass
Vote:	6 - 0 - 2
Yeas:	Bentz, Boone, Keny-Guyer, Witt, Bailey, Gilliam
Nays:	0
Exc.:	Krieger, Thompson
Prepared By:	Beth Patrino, Administrator
Meeting Dates:	2/23

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Makes legislative findings on lighting that contains mercury. Defines terms. Prohibits sale, offer for sale or distribution of any lighting that contains mercury in amounts exceeding listed standards. Establishes exemptions. Stipulates violation of mercury standards is unlawful trade practice. Directs Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) to report to Legislative Assembly if determined that California has adopted, in whole or part, the mercury content standards adopted by the European Union in RoHS 2 directive. Directs Department of Administrative Services to consult with DEQ and request lighting information from suppliers and issue specifications and make procurement decisions that favor lighting that meets standards.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:
- Potential health risks of mercury exposure
- Manufacturer efforts to reduce mercury in light bulbs
- Next generation light bulbs do not contain mercury but are currently more expensive

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: Mercury is used in many types of light bulbs because it contributes to the bulbs' energy efficiency and life expectancy. Mercury is a naturally occurring element (Hg on the periodic table) that is found in air, water and soil, but it can also be toxic to humans. While a bulb is being used, no mercury is released and the bulb poses no health risk. If a compact fluorescent lamp is dropped or handled improperly, the glass tubing in the bulb may break and release mercury. Senate Bill 1512A establishes mercury content standards for certain light bulbs and directs that state procurement policy favor lighting that meets these standards.

This summary has not been adopted or officially endorsed by action of the committee.
Committee Services Form – 2012 Regular Session