Overview

This bill establishes goals and strategies for bringing about further reductions in mercury releases in the state. The bill includes the recommendations of the PCA and an advisory council which has been working on the issue for the last 18 months.

Section
1 Establishes goals for reducing releases of mercury to below 60 percent of 1990 levels by December 31, 2000 and to below 70 percent of 1990 levels by December 31, 2005.

2 Requires the PCA to implement the strategies for reducing mercury emissions identified in the Commissioner's report on the same dated March 15, 1999. Specifies that the commissioner shall solicit voluntary reduction agreements from sources that emit more than 50 pounds of mercury per year as part of the implementation process.

3 Requires progress reports to be submitted to the legislature in October 2001 and October 2005 regarding progress toward meeting the goals and discussing whether voluntary or mandatory reduction strategies are needed. The report shall also address whether the goals are still appropriate.

4 Appropriates funds from the general fund to the PCA for implementation purposes.