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## Bill giving locals power to ban self-generating softeners to governor

SACRAMENTO (AP) -- Local governments could ban or limit the use of self-regenerating residential water softeners under a bill that is headed for Gov. Gray Davis' desk.

Sen. Jim Costa, D-Fresno, said his bill would help local agencies reduce the amount of salt in waste water that makes it difficult to run water recycling programs.

The state Senate voted 23-12 Wednesday to approve Assembly amendments to Costa's bill, sending it to Gov. Gray Davis.

The bill would allow a local agency, starting in 2003, to ban or limit new installations of self-regenerating residential water softeners, if the agency makes a finding that it has done all it can to limit saline discharges from nonresidential sources.

Water softeners remove the metal ions that cause hardness in water by the use of a device called an ion exchange resin. In self-regenerating water softeners, the resin is bathed in a salty solution so it can continue to attract ions. The metal ions and the excess salt are discharged directly into the sewer system.

The bill would not affect the use of water softeners whose tanks are replaced when the resin needs regeneration.



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