



Senate

General Assembly

File No. 285

February Session, 2018

Substitute Senate Bill No. 341

Senate, April 5, 2018

The Committee on Environment reported through SEN. KENNEDY of the 12th Dist. and SEN. MINER of the 30th Dist., Chairpersons of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING CLOTHING FIBER POLLUTION.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) Not later than July 1, 2018,
2 the Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection, in
3 consultation with the Commissioner of Consumer Protection, shall
4 convene a working group of representatives of the apparel industry
5 and the environmental community for the purpose of developing a
6 consumer awareness and education program concerning the presence
7 of synthetic microfibers in clothing. Such program shall include, but
8 not be limited to, consumer oriented information that explains the
9 process by which such microfibers are shed from clothing and are
10 dispersed in the state's waterways, best practices for consumers to
11 eliminate and reduce the disbursement of microfibers from clothing
12 into the waterways of the state and information on efforts that
13 members of the apparel industry, including, but not limited to, brand
14 labels, are undertaking to reduce or eliminate microfibers in clothing.

15 The working group shall include, but not be limited to, a
 16 representative of each of the following organizations: (1) The
 17 Sustainable Apparel Coalition, (2) the American Apparel and Footwear
 18 Association, (3) the American Apparel and Producer's Network, (4)
 19 Fashion Group International, (5) the National Retail Federation, (6) the
 20 Council of Fashion Designers of America, and (7) Fashion Business,
 21 Inc. Not later than January 1, 2019, the Commissioner of Energy and
 22 Environmental Protection shall, in accordance with section 11-4a of the
 23 general statutes, submit a report to the joint standing committee of the
 24 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to the
 25 environment on the efforts of such working group and any related
 26 recommendations for legislation concerning such consumer awareness
 27 and education program and the reduction of microfibers in our state's
 28 waterways.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	New section

ENV *Joint Favorable Subst.*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note***State Impact:*** None***Municipal Impact:*** None***Explanation***

The bill establishes a working group of representatives of the apparel industry and the environmental community for the purpose of developing a consumer awareness and education program that consists, in part, of a clothing labeling component designed to readily alert consumers of the presence of synthetic microfibers in an article of clothing prior to the purchase of such clothing.

The working group shall submit its findings and recommendations to the environment committee by January 1, 2019.

This bill has no fiscal impact as PA 17-236 prohibits transportation allowances for task force members.

The Out Years***State Impact:*** None***Municipal Impact:*** None

OLR Bill Analysis**sSB 341*****AN ACT CONCERNING CLOTHING FIBER POLLUTION.*****SUMMARY**

By July 1, 2018, this bill requires the energy and environmental commissioner, in consultation with the consumer protection commissioner, to convene a working group to develop a consumer awareness and education program about synthetic microfibers in clothing. He must report to the Environment Committee by January 1, 2019 on the group's efforts and any recommendations for legislation on the program and to reduce microfibers in the state's waterways.

Under the bill, the program must include:

1. consumer oriented information on how clothing sheds synthetic microfibers and they end up in the state's waterways;
2. best practices for consumers to reduce and eliminate having the microfibers end up in the waterways; and
3. information on how apparel industry members, including brand labels, are working to reduce or eliminate microfibers in clothing.

The bill requires the working group to consist of representatives of the apparel industry and the environmental community.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

INDUSTRY REPRESENTATIVES

The bill designates the following seven industry organizations as those who must be included in the working group:

1. Sustainable Apparel Coalition;
2. American Apparel and Footwear Association;
3. American Apparel and Producer's Network;
4. Fashion Group International;
5. National Retail Federation;
6. Council of Fashion Designers of America; and
7. Fashion Business, Inc.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Environment Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 25 Nay 5 (03/22/2018)