

Fiscal: No Fiscal Impact

Revenue: No Revenue Impact

Action Date: 04/21/15

Action: Do Pass As Amended And Be Printed Engrossed.

Meeting Dates: 04/07, 04/21

Vote:

Yeas: 9 - Bentz, Boone, Heard, Helm, Holvey, Johnson, Reardon, Vega Pederson, Weidner

Prepared By: Beth Patrino, Committee Administrator

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Phases in prohibition on manufacture and sale of personal care products and over-the-counter drugs that contain synthetic plastic microbeads. As of January 1, 2018, prohibits manufacture for sale of personal care product, other than over-the-counter drug, that contains synthetic plastic microbeads. As of January 1, 2019, prohibits manufacture or accepting for sale, of personal care product that contains synthetic plastic microbeads; prohibits manufacture for sale, may accept for sale, over-the-counter drug that contains synthetic plastic microbeads. As of January 1, 2020, prohibits manufacture of or accepting for sale personal care products or over-the-counter drugs that contain synthetic plastic microbeads. Specifies violation is unlawful trade practice.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Actions in other states to ban microbeads in personal care products
- Potential cost savings for wastewater treatment plants
- Voluntary actions by manufacturers to forgo use of microbeads in products

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:

Modifies definitions of “personal care product” and “plastic.”

BACKGROUND:

Synthetic plastic microbeads are commonly used in exfoliating creams, soaps, toothpastes, and other personal care products. The microbeads are made of polyethylene or polypropylene and range in size from 0.0004 to 1.24 mm, making them too small to be filtered out by wastewater treatment plants. Once in the water, microbeads, like other plastics, can absorb persistent chemicals found in waterways. In 2014, Illinois became the first state to enact a ban on the manufacture and sale of personal care products containing synthetic plastic microbeads. The Illinois law requires that the beads be removed from manufacturing by the end of 2018 and the products containing beads may no longer be sold starting at the end of 2019.

House Bill 3478A would phase in a ban on the manufacture and sale of personal care products and over-the-counter drugs that contain synthetic plastic microbeads.