

SB 405 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Energy and Environment

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Meeting Dates: 1/31

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Prohibits, effective January 1, 2026, a person from selling or offering for sale a clothes washer unless it has a built-in microfiber filtration system; or the washer is sold with a compatible in-line microfiber filtration system. Defines key terms. Authorizes Department of Environmental Quality and the Environmental Quality Commission to take action prior to Act becoming operative to enable Department to carry out duties related to Act.

REVENUE: May have revenue impact, but no statement yet issued

FISCAL: May have fiscal impact, but no statement yet issued

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

When washed clothing made from plastic-based materials like polyester, rayon, nylon, and acrylic sheds tiny plastic fragments known as microfibers. According to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), microfibers are the most prevalent type of microplastic (plastic pieces less than 5 mm in diameter) found in the environment. Once in the environment, microfibers are extremely difficult to clean up and have been found in a diverse range of land and aquatic ecosystems.

Senate Bill 405 would prohibit the sale of new clothes washers, after January 1, 2026, unless the washers are equipped with a built-in or in-line microfiber filtration system.