



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

OCT 08 2023

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 1628 without my signature.

This bill would require all new washing machines sold in California for residential or state use to contain a microfiber filtration system by January 1, 2029, and allows the Attorney General or local prosecutors to assess civil penalties for a violation of this requirement.

My Administration takes seriously the need to reduce the presence of microfibers in our wastewater system. The State Water Board is currently assessing the potential impacts of microplastic pollution to aquatic ecosystems in coastal and estuarine environments, as well as humans through exposure in drinking water. However, I am concerned that this bill will increase costs to consumers in advance of further research being completed and establishing the public policy rationale and details for new residential requirements.

In the interim, I encourage the author to consider alternative approaches to incentivize, rather than mandate, the use of filters or other technologies that could remove microfibers in wastewater.

For this reason, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,



Gavin Newsom