S T A T E O F N E W Y O R K

5844

2011-2012 Regular Sessions

I N A S S E M B L Y

March 2, 2011

Introduced by M. of A. KAVANAGH, COOK, GABRYSZAK, GALEF, P. RIVERA, STEVENSON -- Multi-Sponsored by -- M. of A. GOTTFRIED, THIELE, TITONE, WEISENBERG -- read once and referred to the Committee on Environmental Conservation

AN ACT to amend the environmental conservation law, in relation to providing biodegradable filters on cigarettes

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, REPRESENTED IN SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Legislative intent. Cigarette filters do not decompose and return to the soil. Consequently they produce unsightly litter as well as posing a possible threat to any water system that they may be flushed into, through plumbing or natural drainage. It is the intent of this legislation to improve the quality of life by removing the litter and reducing the danger of possible chemical reaction through the use of biodegradable filters.

S 2. The environmental conservation law is amended by adding a new section 27-0721 to read as follows:

S 27-0721. FILTERS ON CIGARETTES TO BE BIODEGRADABLE.

1. WITHIN TWO YEARS AFTER THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS SECTION, NO FILTERED CIGARETTES SHALL BE SOLD OR OFFERED FOR SALE IN THIS STATE UNLESS THE MANUFACTURER THEREOF HAS CERTIFIED IN WRITING TO THE DEPARTMENT THAT THE FILTER IS BIODEGRADABLE.

2. A VIOLATION OF THIS SECTION SHALL BE PUNISHABLE BY A CIVIL PENALTY NOT TO EXCEED ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS FOR EACH VIOLATION THEREOF.

S 3. This act shall take effect immediately.

EXPLANATION--Matter in ITALICS (underscored) is new; matter in brackets [ ] is old law to be omitted.

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