

STATE OF NEW YORK

2635

2021-2022 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

January 19, 2021

Introduced by M. of A. HYNDMAN -- read once and referred to the Committee on Consumer Affairs and Protection

AN ACT to amend the general business law, in relation to hair relaxer labeling

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

1 Section 1. The general business law is amended by adding a new section
2 391-v to read as follows:

3 § 391-v. Hair relaxer labeling. 1. For purposes of this section:

4 a. "Hair relaxer" shall mean any product topically applied to hair for
5 the purpose of weakening the structure and curliness of the hair fiber
6 and allowing for a straightening of the hair;

7 b. "Manufacturer" shall mean a person, firm, association, partnership
8 or corporation who manufactures the final hair relaxer or whose brand
9 name is affixed to the product. In the case of a product that was
10 imported into the United States, "manufacturer" includes the importer or
11 first domestic distributor of the product if the entity who currently
12 manufactures or assembles the product or whose brand name is affixed to
13 the product does not have a presence in the United States;

14 c. "Chemical" shall mean a substance with a distinct molecular compo-
15 sition or a group of structurally related substances and includes the
16 breakdown products of the substance or substances that form through
17 decomposition, degradation or metabolism;

18 d. "Carcinogen" shall mean any chemical identified as:

19 (i) a "Group 1 carcinogen" or "Group 2A carcinogen" by the World
20 Health Organization or International Agency for Research on Cancer;

21 (ii) "known to be a human carcinogen" and "reasonably anticipated to
22 be a human carcinogen" by the Secretary of the United States Department
23 of Health and Human Services pursuant to the Public Health Service Act,
24 42 United States Code, Section 241(b)(4), as amended; and

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

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1 (iii) "Group A carcinogens" or "Group B carcinogens" by the United
2 States Environmental Protection Agency; and

3 e. "Reproductive toxicant" is any chemical identified as reproductive
4 or a developmental toxicant by:

5 (i) the United States Department of Health and Human Services,
6 National Toxicology Program, Center for the Evaluation of Risks to Human
7 Reproduction; or

8 (ii) the California Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Envi-
9 ronmental Health Hazard Assessment pursuant to the California Health and
10 Safety Code, Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act of 1986,
11 Chapter 6.6, Section 25249.8.

12 2. Any hair relaxer being offered for sale in the state of New York
13 that contains a carcinogen or a reproductive toxicant shall provide a
14 clear and conspicuous warning label that notifies the consumer that such
15 hair relaxer contains such chemicals. The warning label shall state:

16 (i) if a product contains a carcinogen: "This product contains a chem-
17 ical known to cause cancer";

18 (ii) if a product contains a reproductive toxicant: "This product
19 contains a chemical known to cause birth defects or other reproductive
20 harm"; or

21 (iii) if a product contains both a carcinogen and a reproductive toxi-
22 cant: "This product contains chemicals known to cause cancer and birth
23 defects or other reproductive harm".

24 3. The state department of health shall determine the size and font of
25 the warning label described in subdivision two of this section.

26 4. Manufacturers shall be responsible for ensuring that all hair
27 relaxers display the warning label as determined by the state department
28 of health pursuant to subdivision three of this section.

29 5. Whenever there shall be a violation of this section, an application
30 may be made by the attorney general in the name of the people of the
31 state of New York to a court or justice having jurisdiction by a special
32 proceeding to issue an injunction, and upon notice to the defendant of
33 not less than five days, to enjoin and restrain the continuance of such
34 violation; and if it shall appear to the satisfaction of the court or
35 justice that the defendant has, in fact, violated this section, an
36 injunction may be issued by such court or justice, enjoining and
37 restraining any further violation, without requiring proof that any
38 person has, in fact, been injured or damaged thereby. Whenever the
39 court shall determine that a violation of this section has occurred, the
40 court may impose a civil penalty of one hundred dollars per unit for the
41 first offense, two hundred fifty dollars per unit for the second offense
42 and five hundred dollars per unit for each subsequent offense. In
43 connection with any such proposed application, the attorney general is
44 authorized to take proof and make a determination of the relevant facts
45 and to issue subpoenas in accordance with the civil practice law and
46 rules.

47 § 2. This act shall take effect eighteen months after it shall have
48 become a law. Effective immediately, the addition, amendment and/or
49 repeal of any rule or regulation necessary for the implementation of
50 this act on its effective date are authorized to be made on or before
51 such date.