STATE OF NEW YORK

3217--B

2025-2026 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

January 24, 2025

Introduced by Sen. KAVANAGH -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Environmental Conservation -- committee discharged, bill amended, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee -- recommitted to the Committee on Environmental Conservation in accordance with Senate Rule 6, sec. 8 -- committee discharged, bill amended, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee

AN ACT to amend the environmental conservation law and the state finance law, in relation to establishing extended producer responsibility for textiles

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

Section 1. Article 27 of the environmental conservation law is amended by adding a new title 34 to read as follows:

TITLE 34
EXTENDED PRODUCER RESPONSIBILITY FOR TEXTILES
Section 27-3401. Definitions.
27-3403. Textile disposal ban.
27-3405. Producer plan.
27-3407. Producer responsibilities.
27-3409. Retailer, distributor and wholesaler responsibilities.
27-3411. Department responsibilities.
27-3413. Labeling requirements.
27-3415. Textile stewardship advisory board.
27-3417. Post-consumer requirements.
27-3419. Enforcement and penalties.
27-3421. Limits of liability for antitrust, restraint of trade, or unfair trade practices.
27-3423. Rules and regulations.

§ 27-3401. Definitions.

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

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For the purposes of this title, the following terms shall have the following meanings:

1. "Apparel" means clothing and accessory items intended for regular wear or formal occasions, including, but not limited to, undergarments, shirts, pants, skirts, dresses, overalls, bodysuits, costumes, vests, dancewear, suits, saris, scarves, tops, leggings, school uniforms, leisurewear, athletic wear, sports uniforms, everyday swimwear, formal wear, onesies, bibs, diapers, footwear, and everyday uniforms for workwear. Clothing items intended for regular wear or formal occasions does not include personal protective equipment or clothing items for exclusive use by the United States military.

2. "Brand" means a trademark, including both a registered trademark and an unregistered trademark, a logo, a name, a symbol, a word, an identifier, or a traceable mark that identifies a covered textile and identifies the owner or licensee of the brand.

3. "Collection program" or "program" means a program financed and implemented by producers, either individually, or through a representative organization, that provides for, but is not limited to, the collection, transportation, reuse, recycling, proper end-of-life management, or an appropriate combination thereof, or discarded products.

4. "Collection site" means a permanent location in the state at which discarded products may be returned by a consumer. Collection sites shall accept all types of discarded products as defined by this title regardless of brand.

5. "Consumer" means a person located in the state who purchases, owns, leases, or uses covered products, including but not limited to an individual, a business, corporation, limited partnership, not-for-profit corporation, the state, a public corporation, public school, school district, private or parochial school or board of cooperative educational services or governmental entity.

6. "Covered product" means any product that is a textile or textile article, as defined in this section.

7. "Discarded product" means a covered product that a consumer has used and disposed of in the state and is no longer used for its manufactured purpose.

8. "Distributor" or "wholesaler" means a person who buys or otherwise acquires a covered product and sells or offers to sell such product to retailers in this state.

9. "Energy recovery" means the process by which all or a portion of solid waste materials are processed or combusted in order to utilize the heat content or other forms of energy derived from such solid waste materials.

10. "Producer" means any person who manufactures a covered product that is sold, offered for sale, or distributed in this state under the manufacturer's own name or brand. "Producer" includes:

(a) the owner of a trademark or brand under which a covered product is sold, offered for sale, or distributed in this state, whether or not such trademark or brand is registered in the state; and

(b) any person who imports a covered product into the United States that is sold or offered for sale in the state and that is manufactured by a person who does not have a presence in the United States.

11. "Recycling" or "recycle" means to separate, dismantle or process the materials, components, or commodities contained in covered products for the purpose of preparing the materials, components or commodities for use or reuse in new products or components. "Recycling" or "recycle" does not include: (a) energy recovery or energy generation by any means,

including but not limited to, combustion, incineration, pyrolysis, gasification, solvolysis, or waste to fuel; (b) any chemical conversion process; or (c) landfill disposal.

12. "Recycling rate" means the percentage of discarded product that is managed through recycling or reuse, as defined by this title, and is computed by dividing the amount of recycled output derived from collected covered product, plus any pounds sent for reuse by the estimated total of discarded product generated during a program year.

13. "Representative organization" means a not-for-profit organization established by a producer or a group of producers to implement a collection program.

14. "Retailer" means any person who sells or offers for sale a covered product to a consumer in the state.

15. "Reuse" means the return of a product into the economic stream for use in the same kind of application as the product was originally intended to be used, without a change in the product's identity.

16. "Sale" or "sell" means any transfer for consideration of title or the right to use, from a manufacturer or retailer to a person, including, but not limited to, transactions conducted through retail sale outlets, catalogs, mail, the telephone, the internet, or any electronic means; "sale" or "sell" shall not include donations or reuse.

17. "Textile" means any item made in whole or in part from natural, manmade, or synthetic fiber, yarn, or fabric, and includes, but is not limited to, leather, cotton, silk, jute, hemp, wool, viscose, nylon, or polyester. "Textile" does not include disposable hygiene products made from paper, including, but not limited to, toilet paper, paper towels or tissues, or disposable absorbent hygiene products.

18. "Textile articles" means textile goods of a type customarily used in households and businesses, and includes, but is not limited to, apparel, accessories, handbags, backpacks, draperies, shower curtains, furnishings, upholstery, bedding towels, napkins, and tablecloths. "Textile articles" does not include: (a) carpets and rugs as defined in title thirty-three of this article; (b) treatments containing polyfluoroalkyl for use on converted textiles or leathers; (c) component parts from a vehicle, as defined in section one hundred fifty-nine of the vehicle and traffic law, such as seats and carpets or synthetic flooring; (d) component parts from a vessel, as defined in section two of the navigation law, such as seats, synthetic flooring, and boat covers; (e) filtration media and filter products used in industrial applications, including, but not limited to, chemical or pharmaceutical manufacturing and environmental control technologies; (f) textile articles used in or for laboratory analysis and testing; (g) component parts from an aircraft, as defined in section two hundred forty of the general business law; or (h) stadium shades, architectural fabric structures, or any permanent fabric structure that is intrinsic to a building's design or construction.

§ 27-3403. Textile disposal ban.

1. Beginning three years from the effective date of this title, no person shall knowingly dispose of any textile as solid waste in the state at any time.

2. Beginning six months from the effective date of this title, no retailer, distributor, wholesaler, manufacturer, or owner or operator of a textile collection site, textile waste consolidation facility, or textile waste recycling facility in the state shall dispose of textile waste at a solid waste management facility or hazardous waste management facility, or place textile waste for collection which is intended for

disposal at a solid waste management facility or hazardous waste management facility.

3. Beginning two years from the effective date of this title, no person, except for an individual or household, shall place or dispose of any textile waste in any solid waste management facility, or place textile waste for collection which is intended for disposal at a solid waste management facility or hazardous waste management facility in this state. Persons engaged in the collection of solid waste for delivery to a solid waste management facility shall provide written information to users of such facility on the proper methods for the recycling of textile waste.

4. Beginning three years from the effective date of this title, no individual or household shall place or dispose of any textile waste, that exceeds an amount as determined by the department, in any solid waste management facility, or place textile waste for collection which is intended for disposal at a solid waste management facility or hazardous waste management facility in this state.

5. Beginning two years from the effective date of this title, an owner or operator of a solid waste management facility or hazardous waste management facility shall educate users of such facility on the proper methods for the management of textile waste. Such education shall include:

(a) providing written information to users of such facility on the proper methods for recycling of textile waste; and

(b) posting, in conspicuous locations at such facility, signs stating that textile waste may not be disposed of at the facility.

§ 27-3405. Producer plan.

1. No later than eighteen months after the effective date of this title, a producer, either individually or cooperatively in a group with one or more producers or with a representative organization, shall submit to the department for the department's approval a plan for the establishment of a collection program that meets the requirements of the program described in this section.

2. A producer may satisfy the collection program requirement of this section by agreeing to participate collectively with a group of other producers or with a representative organization. Any such producer participating collectively in a collection program shall notify the department of such participation.

3. A producer or representative organization shall update the plan, as needed, when there are changes proposed to the current program. A new plan or amendment shall be required to be submitted to the department for approval when:

(a) there is a revision of the program's goals; or

(b) every three years from the date of approval of a previous plan.

4. The plan submitted by the producer or representative organization to the department under this section shall, at a minimum:

(a) provide a list of each participating producer and brand covered by the program;

(b) provide information on the products covered by the program;

(c) describe how the producer or representative organization will collect, transport, recycle, and process covered products;

(d) describe how the program will provide for the collection of covered products in the state, free of cost and in a manner convenient to consumers, including how the program will achieve, at a minimum, a convenience standard that ensures that all counties of the state and all municipalities that have a population of ten thousand or greater have at

least one permanent collection site and one additional permanent collection site for every thirty thousand people located in those areas, that accepts covered products from consumers during normal business hours; however, with respect to a city having a population of one million or more, after consultation with the department of sanitation of such city, the department may otherwise establish an alternative convenience standard. The producer or representative organization may coordinate the program with existing municipal waste collection infrastructure as is mutually agreeable. Convenience standards shall be evaluated by the department periodically and the department may require additional collection locations to ensure adequate consumer convenience;

(e) describe how the discarded covered products will be safely and securely transported, tracked, and handled from collection sites through final recycling and processing;

(f) describe the methods to be used to reuse or recycle discarded covered products to ensure that the components, to the extent feasible, are transformed or remanufactured into finished products for use;

(g) describe the methods to be used to manage or dispose of discarded products that cannot be recycled or reused;

(h) describe in detail education and outreach efforts to inform consumers and others engaged in the management of discarded covered products about the program, including, at a minimum, an internet website and a toll-free telephone number and written information included at the time of sale of covered products that provides sufficient information to allow a consumer to learn how to return such covered products for disposal, recycling or reuse;

(i) describe how the program will meet annual performance goals, as determined by the department, provided that at a minimum, the program shall achieve the following recycling rates for textiles:

(i) a thirty percent recycling rate for textiles by five years after the plan is approved by the department pursuant to section 27-3411 of this title;

(ii) a fifty percent recycling rate for textiles by ten years after the plan is approved by the department pursuant to section 27-3411 of this title;

(iii) a seventy-five percent recycling rate for textiles by fifteen years after the plan is approved by the department pursuant to section 27-3411 of this title.

(j) describe what, if any, incentives will be used to encourage retailer participation;

(k) describe the outreach and education methods that will be used to encourage municipal landfill and transfer station participation;

(l) describe the methods to be used to reuse or recycle discarded covered products;

(m) describe what, if any, incentives will be used to encourage retailer participation;

(n) estimate the amounts of covered products that were previously sold, offered for sale, or distributed in the state under each producer's name or brand that are discarded in the state annually and describe the sources of data and methodology for estimating such amount; and

(o) any other information as specified by the department.

§ 27-3407. Producer responsibilities.

1. Beginning no later than twenty-four months after the effective date of this title, the producer or representative organization shall implement a collection program utilizing collection sites established pursu-

ant to paragraph (d) of subdivision four of section 27-3405 of this title.

2. A producer shall not sell, or offer for sale, covered products to any person in the state unless the producer is implementing or participating under an approved plan.

3. The collection program shall be free to the consumer, convenient, and adequate to serve the needs of such consumers in all areas of the state on an ongoing basis.

4. A producer or representative organization shall maintain records demonstrating compliance with the provisions of this title and make them available for audit and inspection by the department for a period of three years. The department shall make such records available to the public upon request in accordance with the provisions of the state freedom of information law and the regulations promulgated thereunder. Record holders shall submit the records required to comply with such request within sixty working days of written notification by the department of receipt of the request.

5. A producer or representative organization shall be responsible for all costs associated with the implementation of the collection program, including but not limited to the cost of collection. A producer or representative organization shall pay costs incurred by the department in the administration and enforcement of this title. Exclusive of fines and penalties, the department shall only be reimbursed its actual cost of administration and enforcement.

6. Any person who becomes a producer on or after two years from the effective date of this title shall submit a plan to the department, or notify the department that it has joined an existing plan, prior to selling or offering for sale in the state any covered products and shall comply with the requirements of this title.

7. Within eighteen months following approval of the producer plan, and annually thereafter, a producer or representative organization shall submit a report to the department that includes, for the previous program year, a description of the program including, but not limited to the following:

(a) a detailed description of the methods used to collect, transport, and process covered products in the state, including collection methods made available to consumers and an evaluation of the program's collection convenience;

(b) identification of all collection sites in the state;

(c) the estimated weight of all discarded covered products collected and reused or recycled pursuant to the collection program;

(d) an evaluation of whether the performance goals and recycling rates have been achieved and a description of any modifications necessary to achieve such goals;

(e) the estimated weight of discarded covered products and any component materials that were collected pursuant to the collection program, but not recycled;

(f) the total cost of implementing the program;

(g) samples of all educational materials provided to consumers and a detailed list of efforts undertaken and an evaluation of methods used to disseminate such materials including recommendations, if any, for how the educational component of the program can be improved; and

(h) any other information required by the department.

8. (a) A producer or the representative organization that organizes the collection, transport and processing of covered products, in an action solely to increase the recycling of covered products by a produc-

er, representative organization, or tailor that affects the types and quantities being recycled or the cost and structure of any return program shall not be liable for any claim of a violation of antitrust, restraint of trade or unfair trade practice arising from conduct undertaken in accordance with the program pursuant to this section.

(b) Notwithstanding any contrary provision of this section, paragraph (a) of this subdivision shall not apply to any agreement establishing or affecting the price of covered products sold to consumers in the state or the output or production of covered products or any agreement restricting the geographic area or customers to which covered products will be sold.

§ 27-3409. Retailer, distributor and wholesaler responsibilities.

1. Beginning thirty months after the effective date of this title, no retailer, distributor, or wholesaler may sell or offer for sale covered products in the state unless the producer of such covered product is participating in a collection program. A retailer, distributor or wholesaler, shall be in compliance with this section if, on the date the covered products are offered for sale, the producer is listed on the department's website as implementing or participating in an approved collection program or if the covered products brand is listed on the department's website as being included in the program.

2. Any retailer, distributor, or wholesaler may participate, on a voluntary basis, as a designated collections site pursuant to a collection program and in accordance with all applicable laws and regulations.

§ 27-3411. Department responsibilities.

1. The department shall (a) maintain a list of producers who are implementing or participating pursuant to section 27-3405 of this title, (b) maintain a list of such producer's brands, and (c) post such lists on the department's website.

2. Beginning thirty months after the effective date of this title, the department shall post on its website the location of all collection sites identified to the department by the producer in its plans and annual reports.

3. The department shall post on its website each producer plan approved by the department.

4. Within ninety days after receipt of a proposed plan or plan amendment, the department shall approve or reject the plan or plan amendment. If the plan or plan amendment is approved, the department shall notify the producer or representative organization in writing. If the department rejects the plan or plan amendment, the department shall notify the producer or representative organization in writing stating the reason for rejecting the plan or plan amendment. A producer or representative organization whose plan is rejected shall submit a revised plan to the department within thirty days of receiving a notice of rejection. If the department rejects the subsequent proposal, the producer or producers at issue shall be out of compliance and subject to enforcement provisions.

5. The department shall submit a report regarding the implementation of this title to the governor and legislature by no later than three years after the effective date of this title and every year thereafter. The report shall include, at minimum, an evaluation of:

(a) the stream of covered products in the state;

(b) disposal, recycling, and reuse rates in the state covered products;

(c) a discussion of compliance and enforcement related to the requirements of this title; and

(d) recommendations for any changes to this title.

§ 27-3413. Labeling requirements.

One year after the plan is approved by the department pursuant to section 27-3411 of this title, covered products sold or offered for sale in the state shall be accompanied by the name of the producer and the producer's contact information.

§ 27-3415. Textile stewardship advisory board.

1. There is hereby established within the department a textile collection program advisory board to make recommendations to the commissioner regarding program operator plans required by this title.

2. The board shall be composed of twelve voting members. Such members shall include:

(a) one representative of textile producers;

(b) two representatives of textile retailers;

(c) one representative of textile recyclers;

(d) two representatives of textile collectors;

(e) one representative of a company that utilizes discarded covered products to manufacture a new product;

(f) one representative from a statewide environmental organization;

(g) one representative from a statewide waste disposal association;

(h) one representative from the New York product stewardship council;

(i) one representative from a consumer organization; and

(j) one representative from a statewide recycling organization.

3. The members shall be appointed as follows:

(a) two members to be appointed by the temporary president of the senate;

(b) two members to be appointed by the speaker of the assembly;

(c) one member to be appointed by the minority leader of the senate;

(d) one member to be appointed by the minority leader of the assembly; and

(e) six members to be appointed by the governor.

4. Such appointments shall be made no later than the first day of January following the date on which this title takes effect. The members shall designate a chair from among the members by majority vote. Board members shall receive no compensation but shall be entitled to their necessary and actual expenses incurred in the performance of their board duties.

5. The board shall meet at least biannually by call of the chair.

§ 27-3417. Post-consumer requirements.

All covered products sold in the state shall be manufactured with the following minimum amounts from post-consumer sources:

1. Within one year after the plan is approved by the department pursuant to section 27-3411 of this title, a minimum of ten percent post-consumer contents;

2. Within four years thereafter, a minimum of twenty percent post-consumer content; and

3. Five years thereafter, a minimum of thirty percent post-consumer content.

§ 27-3419. Enforcement and penalties.

1. Any producer, representative organization, or retailer who violates any provision of or fails to perform any duty imposed pursuant to this title shall be liable for a civil penalty not to exceed five hundred dollars for each violation and an additional penalty of not more than five hundred dollars for each day during which such violations continue. Civil penalties under this section shall be assessed by the department

after a hearing or opportunity to be heard pursuant to the provisions of section 71-1709 of this chapter.

2. In a city with a population of one million or more, such city shall, in addition to any authority otherwise conferred in this chapter, have concurrent authority to enforce, by an agency or agencies designated for such purpose by the mayor of such city, the provisions of sections 27-3403 and 27-3409 of this title. Any notice of violation issued by an agency designated by the mayor of such city charging a violation of section 27-3403 or 27-3409 of this title shall be returnable to the environmental control board of such city. Such environmental control board shall have the power to impose the civil penalties set forth in subdivision one of this section. All civil penalties collected for any violation of this title that have been imposed by the environmental control board of such city shall be paid into the general fund of such city.

§ 27-3421. Limits on liability for antitrust, restraint of trade, or unfair trade practices.

1. A producer, representative organization, or retailer shall not be liable for any claim of a violation of antitrust, restraint of trade, or unfair trade practice laws arising from the performance of an action required to be undertaken by this title which is necessary to implement or participate under a producer plan approved by the department, solely to increase the collection and recycling of covered products, which affects the types and quantities being collected and recycled or the cost and structure of such collection program that the producer, representative organization, or retailer is participating in pursuant to this title.

2. Provided, however, that subdivision one of this section shall not apply to any agreement establishing or affecting the price of covered products, except, as necessary, to fulfill producer responsibility under subdivision five of section 27-3407 of this title, the output or production of covered products, or restricting the geographic area or customers to which covered products will be sold.

§ 27-3423. Rules and regulations.

The department is hereby authorized to promulgate any rules and regulations necessary to implement this title.

§ 2. The state finance law is amended by adding a new section 97-uuuu to read as follows:

§ 97-uuuu. Textile extended producer responsibility fund. 1. There is hereby established in the joint custody of the state comptroller and the commissioner of environmental conservation a special fund to be known as the "textile extended producer responsibility fund".

2. Such fund shall consist of all revenues received by the comptroller, pursuant to the provisions of section 27-3419 of the environmental conservation law and all other moneys appropriated thereto from any other fund or source pursuant to law. Nothing contained in this section shall prevent the state from receiving grants, gifts, or bequests for the purposes of the fund as defined in this section and depositing them into the fund according to law.

3. The moneys of the textile extended producer responsibility fund, following appropriation by the legislature, shall be allocated for the direct costs associated with extended producer responsibility for textiles pursuant to title thirty-four of article twenty-seven of the environmental conservation law.

4. The state comptroller may invest any moneys in the textile extended producer responsibility fund not expended for the purpose of this

section as provided by law. The state comptroller shall credit any interest and income derived from the deposit and investment of moneys in the textile extended producer responsibility fund to the textile extended producer responsibility fund.

5. Any unexpected and unencumbered moneys remaining in the textile extended producer responsibility fund at the end of a fiscal year shall remain in the textile extended producer responsibility fund and shall not be credited to any other fund.

§ 3. Section 71-1701 of the environmental conservation law, as amended by chapter 795 of the laws of 2022, is amended to read as follows:

§ 71-1701. Applicability of this title.

This title shall be applicable to the enforcement of titles 1 through 11 and titles 15 through 19 of article 17; article 19; and titles 1 [~~and~~], 33 and 34 of article 27 of this chapter.

§ 4. This act shall take effect immediately.