STATE OF NEW YORK

5605

2025-2026 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

February 25, 2025

Introduced by Sen. KAVANAGH -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Consumer Protection

AN ACT to amend the general business law, in relation to requiring all washing machines be sold with a microfiber filtration system and proper notice of such system

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

Section 1. The general business law is amended by adding a new section 395-c to read as follows:

§ 395-c. Sale of washing machines. 1. For the purposes of this section, the following terms shall have the following meanings:

(a) "microfiber filtration system" means a filtration unit that is active across all washing cycles and meets either of the following: (i) the unit is integrated into the washing machine design as a built-in filter; or (ii) the unit is included as an in-line filter and is packaged, sold, and installed with the washing machine; and

(b) "washing machine" means a machine designed and used for washing clothes and linen.

2. On and after January first, two thousand twenty-nine, a new washing machine shall not be sold or offered for sale in the state for residential, commercial, or state use unless the washing machine meets both of the following requirements:

(a) contains a microfiber filtration system with a mesh size of not greater than one hundred micrometers; and

(b) bears a conspicuous label that is visible to the consumer, in the form of a sticker or any other label type, that includes the following statement: "Notice: This washing machine contains a filter to capture microfibers. Check filter regularly and dispose of captured lint in a waste bin."

3. (a) A manufacturer of a washing machine that is subject to the requirements of subdivision two of this section shall provide each

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

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person that offers such washing machine for sale or distribution in the state with a certificate of compliance stating that the washing machine is in compliance with the requirements of this section and contains a microfiber filtration system. A certificate of compliance provided pursuant to this subdivision shall be signed by an authorized official of the manufacturer. The certificate of compliance may be provided electronically.

(b) A distributor or retailer of a washing machine that is subject to the requirements of this section shall not be held in violation of this section if the distributor or retailer is not also the manufacturer of the washing machine and relied in good faith on the certificate of compliance provided by the manufacturer pursuant to paragraph (a) of this subdivision.

4. Upon an action brought by the attorney general, a city attorney, a county counsel, or a district attorney, a person or entity that violates this section shall be liable for a civil penalty not to exceed ten thousand dollars for the first violation, and not to exceed thirty thousand dollars for each subsequent violation.

5. This section shall not impair or impede any other rights, causes of action, claims, or defenses available under any other law. The remedies provided in this section are cumulative with any other remedies available under any other law.

§ 2. This act shall take effect immediately.