STATE OF NEW YORK

8502

2025-2026 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

September 10, 2025

Introduced by Sen. PARKER -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Rules

AN ACT to amend the environmental conservation law and the state finance law, in relation to enacting the "fast fashion waste responsibility act"

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

Section 1. Short title. This act shall be known and may be cited as the "fast fashion waste responsibility act".

§ 2. Legislative findings and purpose. The legislature hereby finds and declares that the fast fashion industry has become a leading contributor to environmental pollution, waste, and resource depletion. Textile production and consumption in New York State generate over 200 million pounds of waste annually, a significant portion of which ends up in landfills or is incinerated, releasing harmful pollutants. Globally, the fashion industry is responsible for 10% of carbon emissions and is the second largest consumer of water. This act aims to mitigate these impacts by implementing an extended producer responsibility (EPR) framework for textile products, holding producers accountable for the post-consumer phase of their products. By fostering a circular economy, this act seeks to reduce waste, increase recycling and reuse, promote sustainable product design, and support environmental justice.

§ 3. 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 TEXTILE PRODUCTS

Section 27-3401. Definitions.
27-3403. Producer obligations.
27-3405. Extended producer responsibility plan requirements.
27-3407. Labeling and transparency requirements.
27-3409. Eco-design incentives.

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

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27-3411. Enforcement and penalties.
27-3413. Rulemaking and implementation.

§ 27-3401. Definitions.

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

1. "Producer" means any entity that manufactures, sells, imports, or distributes clothing, footwear, or textile products within the state of New York.

2. "Textile product" means any item made of fabric or similar material, including apparel, footwear, accessories, and home textiles.

3. "Extended producer responsibility program" or "EPR program" means a regulatory framework requiring producers to take responsibility for the entire life cycle of their products, especially post-consumer waste.

4. "Producer responsibility organization" or "PRO" means a non-profit or cooperative organization established by producers to fulfill their obligations under the EPR program.

§ 27-3403. Producer obligations.

Beginning January first, two thousand twenty-seven, every producer of textile products shall:

1. register with the department and join or form a certified producer responsibility organization;

2. submit an EPR program implementation plan outlining methods for collection, recycling, and education;

3. pay annual EPR program fees based on the volume of textiles sold within the state;

4. establish take-back systems, including in-store drop-off bins or other convenient return mechanisms accessible to all consumers;

5. ensure collected textiles are reused, donated, or recycled, and not disposed of via landfills or incineration; and

6. report annually to the department on program performance, including tonnage collected, recycled, reused, or otherwise managed.

§ 27-3405. Extended producer responsibility plan requirements.

The extended producer responsibility plan shall be detailed and include:

1. specific goals for the percentage of collected textiles to be reused and recycled annually;

2. strategies for public outreach, education, and behavior change programs to promote responsible consumption and return of textiles;

3. partnerships with local governments, non-profit organizations, and small businesses engaged in repair, resale, or recycling;

4. metrics for performance evaluation, environmental impact, and equitable distribution of collection sites; and

5. contingency plans for managing product surpluses and avoiding illegal dumping or export of textile waste.

§ 27-3407. Labeling and transparency requirements.

All textile products sold in New York shall display a durable, legible label indicating:

1. percentage of recycled content used in the product;

2. country of origin and production practices, including labor standards; and

3. an environmental impact score developed and standardized by the department, covering water use, emissions, and toxicity.

§ 27-3409. Eco-design incentives.

1. To promote sustainable product design, the department shall establish a fee-modulation system, reducing extended producer responsibility fees for products that:

(a) contain high levels of recycled or organic materials;
(b) are designed for durability, repairability, and recyclability;
(c) avoid harmful chemicals, synthetic microfibers, and non-recyclable blends; and
(d) have passed third-party eco-certifications.
2. Such system shall reward companies who actively reduce environmental harm at the design stage and foster market transformation.
§ 27-3411. Enforcement and penalties.
The department shall be responsible for enforcement of the provisions of this title. Producers failing to comply with the requirements of this title shall be subject to:
1. Civil penalties up to fifty thousand dollars per day of non-compliance;
2. Suspension or revocation of the right to sell textile products within New York state; and
3. Public disclosure of violations in an annual compliance report. Repeat offenders may be subject to additional sanctions including injunctions or product recalls.
§ 27-3413. Rulemaking and implementation.
1. The department shall promulgate all necessary rules and regulations within twelve months of the effective date of this title.
2. The department shall engage in stakeholder consultations, including public hearings with industry, labor, environmental groups, and the general public.
3. Implementation of the provisions of this title shall begin no later than January first, two thousand twenty-seven, and interim reporting and program evaluation shall be required biennially.

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

§ 97-ccc. Textile waste 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 waste fund".
2. Such fund shall consist of all moneys appropriated, credited, or transferred thereto from any fund or source pursuant to law.
3. The moneys of the textile waste fund shall be available for the following purposes:
(a) to finance textile collection, reuse, and recycling programs;
(b) to support workforce development and training in the circular textile economy, with a focus on marginalized and underserved communities; and
(c) to provide grants to local governments, schools, and nonprofit organizations to expand public education and collection infrastructure.

§ 5. Severability clause. If any clause, sentence, paragraph, subdivision, section or part of this act shall be adjudged by a court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, such judgment shall not affect, impair, or invalidate the remainder thereof, but shall be confined in its operation to the clause, sentence, paragraph, subdivision, section or part thereof directly involved in the controversy in which such judgment shall have been rendered. It is hereby declared to be the intent of the legislature that this act would have been enacted even if such invalid provisions had not been included herein.

§ 6. This act shall take effect immediately.