

JAN 21 2026

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE ENVIRONMENT.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The Hawaii Revised Statutes is amended by
2 adding a new chapter to be appropriately designated and to read
3 as follows:

4 **"CHAPTER**

5 **MICROFIBER FILTRATION SYSTEMS IN WASHING MACHINES**

6 **§ -A Definitions.** As used in this chapter:

7 "Department" means the department of health.

8 "Microfiber filtration system" means a filtration system
9 that:

10 (1) Is active across all washing cycles of a washing
11 machine;

12 (2) Contains a microfiber filter that:

13 (A) Has a mesh size of 100 micrometers or less; or

14 (B) Meets another standard as determined by the
15 department to provide equal or greater efficacy
16 in reducing microfiber pollution as compared to a



1 microfiber filter with a mesh size of not greater
2 than 100 micrometers; and

3 (3) Is either:

4 (A) Built into a newly manufactured washing machine;

5 or

6 (B) An in-line filtration system that is packaged
7 with and capable of being installed with a newly
8 manufactured washing machine.

9 "Manufacturer" means any individual, partnership,
10 corporation, association, or other legal relationship that is
11 engaged in the manufacture, assembly, or production of washing
12 machines.

13 "Units sold" means the total number of newly manufactured
14 washing machines that are offered or distributed for sale within
15 the State by a manufacturer, directly or through a retailer,
16 distributor, or other intermediary, including through online or
17 catalog channels, during a given year.

18 "Washing machine" means a machine designed and used for
19 washing clothes and linens and includes residential and
20 commercial washing machines.



1 **S -B Washing machines; microfiber filtration systems;**
2 **requirements.** (a) Except as provided in subsection (b),
3 beginning January 1, 2032, no manufacturer shall sell, offer to
4 sell, or cause to be distributed for sale within the State a
5 newly manufactured washing machine that fails to meet the
6 requirements of subsection (d).

7 (b) For each calendar year, the percentage of newly
8 manufactured washing machines offered or distributed for sale in
9 the State that are equipped with a microfiber filtration system
10 pursuant to subsection (d) shall be as follows:

11 (1) Beginning January 1, 2032, not less than ten per cent
12 of units sold;
13 (2) Beginning January 1, 2037, not less than fifty per
14 cent of units sold; and
15 (3) Beginning January 1, 2042, not less than one hundred
16 per cent of units sold.

17 (c) Beginning January 1, 2042, no retailer or distributor
18 may sell, offer for sale, or distribute for sale within the
19 State a newly manufactured washing machine that does not meet
20 the requirements of subsection (d).



15 § -C **Certification; requirements.** (a) Each
16 manufacturer of a newly manufactured washing machine sold,
17 offered for sale, or caused to be sold or distributed for sale
18 in the State shall certify with the department, in a form and
19 manner as determined by the department, that the manufacturer is
20 in compliance with the requirements of this chapter.
21 (b) The certificate shall, at a minimum, include:



- 1 (1) A description of which units are sold in compliance
- 2 with section -B; and
- 3 (2) A signed attestation of compliance by an authorized
- 4 official or agent of the manufacturer.

5 § -D **Penalties.** (a) Any manufacturer found in
6 violation of this chapter shall be liable for a civil penalty of
7 no more than \$10,000 for a first violation and no more than
8 \$30,000 for each subsequent violation.

9 (b) No washing machine distributor or retailer shall be
10 held in violation of this chapter if the distributor or retailer
11 is not the manufacturer of the washing machine and the
12 distributor or retailer relied in good faith on the certificate
13 of compliance provided by the manufacturer pursuant to
14 section -B.

15 (c) This section shall not impair any other rights, causes
16 of action, claims, or defenses available under any other law.

17 The penalties provided under this section shall be considered
18 cumulative with any other remedy provided by law.

19 § -E Rules. The department may adopt rules in
20 accordance with chapter 91 for the purposes of this sec
21 including but not limited to:



- 1 (1) Establishing certification requirements for
- 2 manufacturers, including frequency;
- 3 (2) Specifying verification methods for the inclusion of
- 4 microfiber filter systems;
- 5 (3) Establishing procedures for calculating and verifying
- 6 the percentage of compliant units sold;
- 7 (4) Establishing standards for microfiber filters;
- 8 provided that the standard shall provide equal or
- 9 greater efficacy in reducing microfiber pollution as
- 10 compared to a microfiber filter with a mesh size of
- 11 not greater than one hundred micrometers; and
- 12 (5) Establishing and providing limited exemptions to the
- 13 requirements of this chapter for small businesses."

14 SECTION 2. In codifying the new sections added by section
15 1 of this Act, the revisor of statutes shall substitute
16 appropriate section numbers for the letters used in designating
17 the new sections in this Act.

18 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

19

INTRODUCED BY: *Mike Gabbard*



S.B. NO. 2330

Report Title:

DOH; Newly Manufactured Washing Machines; Microfiber Filters; Requirements

Description:

Phases in requirements that all newly manufactured washing machines sold within the State by January 1, 2042, be equipped with a microfiber filter. Requires certification that newly manufactured washing machines have microfiber filters. Establishes penalties.

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