

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Subject: Disposable Wipes

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Overview

This bill would prohibit certain disposable personal hygiene products (ex. disposable wipes) from being labeled or advertised as “flushable” unless they meet certain requirements and require products not meeting those standards to be labeled with “Do Not Flush.”

Section

1 Nonwoven personal care disposable products labeling. Adds § 325E.048.

Subd. 1. Definitions. Defines terms for purposes of the bill, including: “flushable, septic safe, and sewer safe” which is defined as a product that is able to clear toilets and drainage pipe systems, compatible with wastewater systems, and is unrecognizable in effluent leaving wastewater treatment systems; and “nonwoven disposable product” which is defined as a product constructed from nonwoven sheets designated, marketed, or used for personal hygiene purposes.

Subd. 2. Prohibition. Prohibits a nonwoven disposable product for sale in the state from being advertised, packaged, or labeled flushable, septic safe, or sewer safe if it does not meet the definition of flushable, septic safe, and sewer safe established in this bill.

Subd. 3. Labeling requirements. Requires nonwoven disposable products for sale in the state that do not meet the definition of flushable, septic safe, and sewer safe established in this bill to be labeled “Do Not Flush.”

Section

Subd. 4. Penalty; enforcement. Establishes a civil penalty of up to \$5,000 for each violation and allows the attorney general to bring an action in the name of the state for recovery of the penalties.

Subd. 5. Exceptions. States that the prohibition and labeling requirements do not apply to television, radio, or a publishers of printed or other advertising; or to wholesalers or retailers that distribute or sell but do not package or label the products.

Provides an effective date of January 1, 2018.