

Subject Disposable Wipes

Authors Clafin

Analyst Janelle Taylor

Date February 17, 2020

Overview

This bill would prohibit certain nonwoven disposable products (e.g. disposable wipes) from being labeled or advertised as “flushable” or “septic/sewer safe” unless they meet certain requirements and require all nonwoven disposable products sold in the state to meet certain industry standards for labeling.

Summary

Section	Description
---------	-------------

1	Nonwoven personal care disposable products.
---	--

Subd. 1. Definitions. Defines terms for purposes of the new requirements, including: “flushable, septic safe, and sewer safe” which is defined as a product that meets certain flushability tests established by the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) or that meets the most recent INDA (Association of the Nonwoven Fabrics Industry) code approved by the commissioner of the Pollution Control Agency (PCA); and “nonwoven disposable product” which is defined as a product constructed from nonwoven sheets designed or marketed for use in the bathroom or toileting purposes that during use could become contaminated with feces/urine or certain other wastes.

Subd. 2. Prohibition. Prohibits nonwoven disposable products sold in the state from being advertised, packaged, or labeled as flushable or septic/sewer safe unless they meet the requirements defined in the previous subdivision (they meet FTC tests or the INDA code approved by the PCA).

Subd. 3. Labeling requirement. Requires a nonwoven disposable product sold in the state to meet the most recent INDA code of practice for product labeling that has been approved by the PCA.

Subd. 4. Penalty; enforcement. Establishes a civil penalty for manufacturers who violate the new requirements of \$100 per prepackaged salable unit up to a maximum of \$5,000. States that the manufacturer may be enjoined from those violations. Allows the attorney general to bring action to recover the civil

Section	Description
---------	-------------

penalties and allows the attorney general to accept assurances from the manufacturer of the discontinuance of the violations under existing authorities.

Subd. 5. Exceptions. States that the prohibition and labeling requirements do not apply to television, radio, or a publisher of printed or other advertising; or to wholesalers or retailers that distribute or sell but do not package or label the products. Allows a manufacturer in possession of nonwoven disposable products on January 1, 2021, to exhaust existing stock.

Effective date. States that the section is effective July 1, 2021.



**MN HOUSE
RESEARCH**

Minnesota House Research Department provides nonpartisan legislative, legal, and information services to the Minnesota House of Representatives. This document can be made available in alternative formats.

www.house.mn/hrd | 651-296-6753 | 600 State Office Building | St. Paul, MN 55155