SB 526   STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Energy and Environment

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Meeting Dates:	2/12

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure would prohibit the sale of new clothes washers, after January 1, 2030, unless the washers are equipped with a built-in or in-line microfiber filtration system.

Detailed Summary

Prohibits, effective January 1, 2030, a person from selling or offering for sale a new clothes washer unless the clothes washer:

- is equipped with a microfiber filtration system: and
- bears a conspicuous label that notifies consumer that the unit includes the microfiber filtration system and instructs the consumer to check the filter according to a regular schedule and dispose of captured lint with household solid waste.

Defines microfiber filtration system as a filtration system that: is active across all washing cycles; has a mesh size of 100 micrometers of less; and is either built into the new washer or an inline filtration system that is packaged and installed with the new clothes washer. Authorizes the Department of Environmental Quality and the Environmental Quality Commission to take any necessary action prior to Act's effective date to carry out duties related to Act.

Fiscal impact: May have fiscal impact, but no statement yet issued
Revenue impact: May have revenue impact, but no statement yet issued

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

According to a proposed definition by the Federal Interagency Marine Debris Coordinating Committee "microfibers are solid, polymeric, fibrous materials that include plastic and non-plastic fibers less than five millimeters in all dimensions." Microfibers shed from fiber-based products during production, manufacturing, regular use, washing, and cleaning and they enter the environment through wastewater, stormwater and runoff, and atmospheric transport. Once in the environment, microfibers are extremely difficult to clean up and have been found in a diverse range of land and aquatic ecosystems.