



## AB 234 – Microparticles Prevention Act

### **Summary**

AB 234 protects our environment and human health by banning the sale of everyday products that contain intentionally added microparticles.

### **Background**

Microparticles are small particles of plastic that are generally less than 5mm in diameter. They have been found everywhere in our environment, including the air, water, soil, food, and living organisms. Microparticles have crossed geographic and environmental boundaries as far as the Arctic glaciers and deep-sea sediment. These tiny particles of plastic are persistent in the environment due to their stubborn degradation characteristics.

Microparticles have been detected in marine organisms, in commercial seafood, and even in drinking water. Alarming, standard water treatment facilities cannot remove all traces of microparticles. To further complicate matters, microparticles in the ocean can bind with other harmful chemicals before being ingested by marine organisms.

The pervasiveness of microparticles in the environment has led to increasing human exposure, through inhalation, digestion, and dermal contact. A global study by WWF International found that on average people could be ingesting approximately 5 grams of plastic every week, equivalent to the weight of a credit card. Additionally, the California State Policy Evidence Consortium has concluded

that microplastics are suspected to promote harmful effects in the reproductive and digestive systems.

### **Problem**

The ubiquitous presence and accumulation of microparticles raises concerns about their impact on the environment and potential harms on human health.

Mitigating microparticles is critical for the future of the ecosystem and public health as plastic pollution inevitably increases.

### **What this bill does**

AB 234 prohibits products that contain microparticles from being placed on the market as follows:

- On and after January 1, 2030 for fragrances.
- On and after January 1, 2028 for rinse-off products.
- On and after January 1, 2036 for lip products, nail products, and makeup.
- On and after January 1, 2030 for leave-on products.
- On and after January 1, 2029 for detergents, waxes, and polishes.

California is a leader in developing policies to reduce the impact of microparticles and other contaminants. In order to continue this leadership, it is imperative that we take

legislative action to restrict this unregulated pollutant.

**Support**

**Contact**

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