CONGRESS.GOV

H.R.2238 - Break Free From Plastic Pollution Act of 2021

117th Congress (2021-2022) | Get alerts

Sponsor:	Rep. Lowenthal, Alan S. [D-CA-47] (Introduced 03/26/2021)
Committees:	House - Energy and Commerce; Ways and Means; Transportation and Infrastructure; Foreign Affairs
Latest Action:	House - 03/29/2021 Referred to the Subcommittee on Environment and Climate Change. (All Actions)
Tracker: 🚯	Introduced > Passed House > Passed Senate > To President > Became Law

Summary(1) Text(1) Actions(7) Titles(2) Amendments(0) Cosponsors(127) Committees(4) Related Bills(2)

There is one version of the bill.

Text available as: XML/HTML (350KB) XML/HTML (new window) (278KB) TXT (216KB) PDF (486KB) (PDF provides a complete and accurate display of this text.)

Shown Here: Introduced in House (03/26/2021)

117th CONGRESS 1st Session



To amend the Solid Waste Disposal Act to reduce the production and use of certain single-use plastic products and packaging, to improve the responsibility of producers in the design, collection, reuse, recycling, and disposal of their consumer products and packaging, to prevent pollution from consumer products and packaging from entering into animal and human food chains and waterways, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

March 26, 2021

Mr. LOWENTHAL (for himself, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Ms. NORTON, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Mr. CARBAJAL, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. GOMEZ, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. RASKIN, Mr. EVANS, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. MORELLE, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. LEVIN of California, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. JONES, Mr. KILMER, Mr. SUOZZI, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. CASE, Ms. STRICKLAND, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. KHANNA, Mr. MEEKS, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Ms. PINGREE, Ms. JACOBS of California, Mr. TRONE, Ms. BROWNLEY, Mr. HASTINGS, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. COHEN, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mr. NADLER, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Ms. NEWMAN, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. WELCH, Mr. CRIST, Ms. MENG, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mrs. LURIA, Mrs. TRAHAN, Ms. CHU, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. CICILLINE, Ms. DELBENE, Mr. DEFAZIO, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. DESAULNIER, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. TLAIB, MS. PRESSLEY, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Ms. ESCOBAR, Mr. PANETTA, Mr. DELGADO, Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER, Mr. KAHELE, Mr. KEATING, Mr. AUCHINCLOSS, Mr. SARBANES, Ms. SCANLON, MS. ROYBAL-ALLARD, MS. SCHRIER, MS. WILD, MS. CASTOR of Florida, Ms. JAYAPAL, Ms. DEAN, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. TAKANO, Mrs. DEMINGS, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ, Mr. MOULTON, Mr. NEGUSE, Mr. DEUTCH, Mr. LARSEN Of Washington, and Ms. OMAR) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Ways and Means, Transportation and Infrastructure, and Foreign Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To amend the Solid Waste Disposal Act to reduce the production and use of certain single-use plastic products and packaging, to improve the responsibility of producers in the design, collection, reuse, recycling, and disposal of their consumer products and packaging, to prevent pollution from consumer products and packaging from entering into animal and human food chains and waterways, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Break Free From Plastic Pollution Act of 2021".

SEC. 2. PRODUCER RESPONSIBILITY FOR PRODUCTS AND PACKAGING.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Solid Waste Disposal Act (<u>42 U.S.C. 6901</u> et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"Subtitle K—Producer Responsibility For Products And Packaging

"SEC. 12001. DEFINITIONS.

"In this subtitle:

"(1) ADVISORY COMMITTEE.—The term 'advisory committee' means an advisory committee established by an Organization under section 12102(c).

"(2) BEVERAGE.-

"(A) IN GENERAL.—The term 'beverage' means any drinkable liquid intended for human oral consumption, including

"(i) water;

"(ii) flavored water;

"(iii) soda water;

"(iv) mineral water;

"(v) beer;

"(vi) a malt beverage;

"(vii) a carbonated soft drink;

"(viii) liquor;

"(ix) tea;

"(x) coffee;

"(xi) hard cider;

"(xii) fruit juice;

"(xiii) an energy or sports drink;

"(xiv) coconut water;

"(xv) wine;

"(xvi) a yogurt drink;

"(xvii) a probiotic drink;

"(xviii) a wine cooler; and

"(xix) any other beverage determined to be appropriate by the Administrator.

"(B) EXCLUSIONS.-The term 'beverage' does not include-

"(i) a drug regulated under the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (<u>21 U.S.C. 301</u> et seq.);

"(ii) infant formula; or

"(iii) a meal replacement liquid.

"(3) BEVERAGE CONTAINER.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.-The term 'beverage container' means a prepackaged beverage container-

"(i) made of any material, including glass, plastic, metal, and multimaterial; and

"(ii) the volume of which is not more than 3 liters.

"(B) EXCLUSION.—The term 'beverage container' does not include a covered product of any material used to sell a prepackaged beverage, such as—

"(i) a carton;

"(ii) a pouch; or

"(iii) aseptic packaging, such as a drink box.

"(C) INCLUSION.—Notwithstanding subparagraphs (A) and (B), for purposes of the program under section 12104, the term 'beverage container' includes a container for a beverage that is not described in those subparagraphs, such as a carton, pouch, or drink box, the responsible party for which elects to participate in the program under that section.

"(4) COMPOSTABLE.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subparagraph (B), the term 'compostable' means, with respect to a covered product, that the covered product—

"(i)_(I) meets the ASTM International standard specification for compostable products numbered D6400 or D6868— "(aa) as in effect on the date of enactment of this subtitle; or

"(bb) as revised after the date of enactment of this subtitle, if the revision is approved by the Administrator; and

"(II) is labeled to reflect that the covered product meets a standard described in subclause (I);

"(ii) is certified as a compostable product by an independent party that is approved by the Administrator; or

"(iii) comprises only-

"(I) wood without any-

"(aa) coatings;

"(bb) additives; or

"(cc) effective beginning on February 1, 2023, toxic substances; or

"(II) natural fiber without any-

"(aa) coatings;

"(bb) additives; or

"(cc) effective beginning on February 1, 2023, toxic substances.

"(B) EXCLUSIONS.—The term 'compostable' shall not apply to—

"(i) paper; or

"(ii) effective beginning on February 1, 2023, any covered product that contains a toxic substance.

"(5) COVERED PRODUCT.---

"(A) IN GENERAL.-The term 'covered product' means, regardless of recyclability, compostability, and material type-

"(i) packaging;

"(ii) a food service product;

"(iii) paper;

"(iv) a single-use product that is not subject to the prohibition under section 12202(c); and

"(v) a container for a beverage that is not described in subparagraphs (A) and (B) of paragraph (3), such as a carton, pouch, or aseptic packaging, such as a drink box, the responsible party for which does not elect to participate in the program under section 12104.

"(B) EXCLUSION.—The term 'covered product' does not include a beverage container.

"(6) COVERED RETAIL OR SERVICE ESTABLISHMENT.-

"(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subparagraph (B), the term 'covered retail or service establishment' means—

"(i) any restaurant; or

"(ii) any business that-

"(I) sells food, alcohol, or any other good or product to the public at retail; or

"(II) elects to comply with the requirements under, as applicable-

"(aa) section 12201; or

"(bb) section 12202.

"(B) EXCEPTION.-

"(i) IN GENERAL.—The term 'covered retail or service establishment' does not include any entity described in subparagraph (A) if the State, or any local government or political subdivision thereof, in which that entity is located has been granted a waiver pursuant to clause (ii).

"(ii) WAIVER.—The Administrator shall prescribe regulations providing for the waiver of the application of section 12201 or 12202 with respect to any State, or any local government or political subdivision thereof, that has enacted requirements that are similar to the requirements imposed under that section.

"(7) FOOD SERVICE PRODUCT.—The term 'food service product' means an item intended to deliver a food product, regardless of the recyclability or compostability of the item, including—

"(A) a utensil;

"(B) a straw;

"(C) a drink cup;

"(D) a drink lid;

"(E) a food package;

"(F) a food container;

"(G) a plate;

"(H) a bowl;

"(I) a meat tray; and

"(J) a food wrap.

"(8) MICROFIBER.-The term 'microfiber' means a particle that-

"(A) has a fibrous shape;

"(B) is less than 5 millimeters in any direction; and

"(C) is released at any point during the full life cycle of a textile, including production, use, cleaning, recycling, and disposal.

"(9) ORGANIZATION.—The term 'Organization' means a Producer Responsibility Organization established under section 12102(a)(1).

"(10) PACKAGING.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.-The term 'packaging' means-

"(i) any package or container, regardless of recyclability or compostability; and

"(ii) any part of a package or container, regardless of recyclability or compostability, that includes material that is used for the containment, protection, handling, delivery, and presentation of goods that are sold, offered for sale, or distributed to consumers in the United States, including through an internet transaction.

"(B) INCLUSIONS.—The term 'packaging' includes packaging described in subparagraph (A) that is—

"(i) intended for the consumer market;

"(ii) service packaging designed and intended to be used or filled at the point of sale, such as carry-out bags, bulk good bags, take-out bags, and home delivery food service packaging;

"(iii) secondary packaging used to group products for multiunit sale;

"(iv) tertiary packaging used for transportation or distribution directly to a consumer; and

"(v) ancillary elements hung or attached to a product and performing a packaging function.

"(C) EXCLUSION.—The term 'packaging' does not include packaging described in subparagraph (A) that is—

"(i) used for the long-term protection or storage of a product; and

"(ii) with a life of not less than 5 years.

"(11) PAPER.-

"(A) IN GENERAL.—The term 'paper' means paper that is sold, offered for sale, delivered, or distributed to a consumer or business in the United States.

"(B) INCLUSIONS.-The term 'paper' includes-

"(i) newsprint and inserts;

"(ii) magazines and catalogs;

"(iii) direct mail;

"(iv) office paper; and

"(v) telephone directories.

"(C) EXCLUSIONS.-The term 'paper' does not include-

"(i) a paper product that, due to the intended use of the paper product, could become unsafe or unsanitary to recycle;

or

"(ii) a bound book.

"(12) PLAN.—The term 'Plan' means a Product Stewardship Plan described in section 12105.

"(13) PROGRAM.—The term 'Program' means a Product Stewardship Program established under section 12102(a)(2).

"(14) RECYCLABLE.—The term 'recyclable' means, with respect to a covered product or beverage container, that—

"(A) the covered product or beverage container can be economically and technically recycled in current United States market conditions;

"(B) United States processing capacity is in operation to recycle, with the geographical distribution of the capacity aligned with the population of geographical regions of the United States, of the total quantity of the covered product or beverage container—

"(i) for each of calendar years 2021 through 2024, not less than 25 percent;

"(ii) for each of calendar years 2025 through 2029, not less than 35 percent;

"(iii) for each of calendar years 2030 through 2034, not less than 50 percent; and

"(iv) for calendar year 2035 and each calendar year thereafter, not less than 60 percent;

"(C) the consumer that uses the covered product or beverage container is not required to remove an attached component of the covered product or beverage container, such as a shrink sleeve, label, or filter, before the covered product or beverage container can be recycled; and

"(D) effective beginning on February 1, 2023, the covered product or beverage container does not contain a toxic substance.

"(15) RECYCLE .---

"(A) IN GENERAL.—The term 'recycle' means the series of activities by which a covered product is—

"(i) collected, sorted, and processed; and

"(ii)_(I) converted into a raw material with minimal loss of material quality;

"(II) used in the production of a new product, including the original product; or

"(III) in the case of composting or organic recycling, productively used for soil improvement.

"(B) EXCLUSION.-The term 'recycle' does not include-

"(i) the method of sorting, processing, and aggregating materials from solid waste that does not preserve the original material quality, and, as a result, the aggregated material is no longer usable for its initial purpose or a substantially similar product and can only be used for inferior purposes or products (commonly referred to as 'downcycling');

"(ii) the use of waste-

"(I) as a fuel or fuel substitute;

"(II) for energy production;

"(III) for repurposing into infrastructure, including-

"(aa) pavement for streets or sidewalks;

"(bb) building materials; and

"(cc) other infrastructure projects, as determined by the Administrator;

"(IV) for alternate operating cover; or

"(V) within the footprint of a landfill; or

"(iii) the conversion of waste into alternative products, such as chemicals, feedstocks, fuels, and energy, through-

"(I) incineration;

"(II) pyrolysis;

"(III) hydropyrolysis;

"(IV) methanolysis;

"(V) gasification; or

"(VI) a similar technology, as determined by the Administrator.

"(16) RESPONSIBLE PARTY .----

"(A) BEVERAGE CONTAINERS.—

"(i) IN GENERAL.-With respect to a beverage sold in a beverage container, the term 'responsible party' means-

"(I) a person that engages in the distribution or sale of the beverage in a beverage container to a retailer in the United States, including any manufacturer that engages in that sale or distribution;

"(II) if subclause (I) does not apply, a person that engages in the sale of the beverage in a beverage container directly to a consumer in the United States; or

"(III) if subclauses (I) and (II) do not apply, a person that imports the beverage sold in a beverage container into the United States for use in a commercial enterprise, sale, offer for sale, or distribution in the United States.

"(ii) RELATED DEFINITIONS.—In this subparagraph:

"(I) DISTRIBUTOR.—The term 'distributor' means a person that engages in the sale of beverages in beverage containers to a retailer in the United States.

"(II) MANUFACTURER.—The term 'manufacturer' means a person bottling, canning, or otherwise filling beverage containers for sale to distributors, importers, or retailers.

"(III) RETAILER.—

"(aa) IN GENERAL.-The term 'retailer' means a person in the United States that-

"(AA) engages in the sale of beverages in beverage containers to a consumer; or

"(BB) provides beverages in beverage containers to a person in commerce, including provision free of charge, such as at a workplace or event.

"(bb) INCLUSION.—The term 'retailer' includes a person that engages in the sale of or provides beverages in beverage containers, as described in item (aa), through a vending machine or similar means.

"(B) COVERED PRODUCTS.—With respect to a covered product, the term 'responsible party' means—

"(i) a person that manufactures and uses in a commercial enterprise, sells, offers for sale, or distributes the covered product in the United States under the brand of the manufacturer;

"(ii) if clause (i) does not apply, a person that is not the manufacturer of the covered product but is the owner or licensee of a trademark under which the covered product is used in a commercial enterprise, sold, offered for sale, or

distributed in the United States, whether or not the trademark is registered; or

"(iii) if clauses (i) and (ii) do not apply, a person that imports the covered product into the United States for use in a commercial enterprise, sale, offer for sale, or distribution in the United States.

"(17) RESTAURANT.-

"(A) IN GENERAL.—The term 'restaurant' means an establishment the primary business of which is the preparation of food or beverage—

"(i) for consumption by the public;

"(ii) in a form or quantity that is consumable immediately at the establishment, whether or not the food or beverage is consumed within the confines of the place where the food or beverage is prepared; or

"(iii) in a consumable form for consumption outside the place where the food or beverage is prepared.

"(B) INCLUSION.-The term 'restaurant' includes a fast food restaurant.

"(18) REUSABLE.—The term 'reusable' means, with respect to a covered product or beverage container, that the covered product or beverage container is—

"(A) technically feasible to reuse or refill in United States market conditions; and

"(B) reusable or refillable for such number of cycles, but not less than 100 cycles, as the Administrator determines to be appropriate for the covered product or beverage container.

"(19) SINGLE-USE PRODUCT.--

"(A) IN GENERAL.—The term 'single-use product' means a consumer product that is routinely disposed of, recycled, or otherwise discarded after a single use.

"(B) EXCLUSIONS.-The term 'single-use product' does not include-

"(i) medical food, supplements, devices, or other products determined by the Secretary of Health and Human Services to necessarily be made of plastic for the protection of public health;

"(ii) personal protective equipment, including-

"(I) masks;

"(II) gloves;

"(III) face shields; and

"(IV) other personal protective equipment determined by Secretary of Health and Human Services to be necessarily made out of plastic for the protection of public health;

"(iii) a personal hygiene product that, due to the intended use of the product, could become unsafe or unsanitary to recycle, such as a diaper; or

"(iv) packaging that is-

"(I) for any product described in clause (i); or

"(II) used for the shipment of hazardous materials that is prohibited from being composed of used materials under section 178.509 or 178.522 of title 49, Code of Federal Regulations (as in effect on the date of enactment of this subtitle).

"(20) TOXIC SUBSTANCE.--

"(A) IN GENERAL.—The term 'toxic substance' means any substance, mixture, or compound that may cause personal injury or disease to humans through ingestion, inhalation, or absorption through any body surface and satisfies 1 or more of the following conditions:

"(i) The substance, mixture, or compound is subject to reporting requirements under-

"(I) the Emergency Planning and Community Right-To-Know Act of 1986 (42 U.S.C. 11001 et seq.);

"(II) the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (<u>42 U.S.C. 9601</u> et seq.); or

"(III) section 112(r) of the Clean Air Act (<u>42 U.S.C. 7412(r)</u>).

"(ii) Testing has produced evidence recognized by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health or the Environmental Protection Agency that the substance, mixture, or compound poses acute or chronic health hazards.

"(iii) The Administrator or the Secretary of Health and Human Services has issued a public health advisory for the substance, mixture, or compound.

"(iv) Exposure to the substance, mixture, or compound is shown by expert testimony recognized by the Environmental Protection Agency to increase the risk of developing a latent disease.

"(v) The substance, mixture, or compound is—

"(I) a perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substance;

"(II) an ortho-phthalate;

"(III) a bisphenol compound (not including an alkyl-substituted bisphenol compound generated through a

xylenol-aldehyde process); or

"(IV) a halogenated or nanoscale flame retardant chemical.

"(B) EXCLUSIONS.-The term 'toxic substance' does not include-

"(i) a pesticide applied-

"(I) in accordance with Federal, State, and local laws (including regulations); and

"(II) in accordance with the instructions of the manufacturer of the pesticide; or

"(ii) ammunition, a component of ammunition, a firearm, an air rifle, discharge of a firearm or an air rifle, hunting or fishing equipment, or a component of hunting or fishing equipment.

"(21) TRANSLATION SERVICES.—The term 'translation services' means professional language interpretation and translation services provided in any language spoken by more than 5 percent of the population residing within a community for written documents and notices and oral communications.

"(22) UNITED STATES.—The term 'United States', when used in a geographical sense, means all of the States.

"(23) UTENSIL.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—The term 'utensil' means a product designed to be used by a consumer to facilitate the consumption of a food or beverage.

"(B) INCLUSIONS.—The term 'utensil' includes a knife, a fork, a spoon, a spork, a cocktail pick, a chopstick, a splash stick, and a stirrer.

"PART I—PRODUCTS IN THE MARKETPLACE

"SEC. 12101. EXTENDED PRODUCER RESPONSIBILITY.

"(a) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subsection (b), beginning on February 1, 2023, each responsible party for any covered product or beverage sold in a beverage container that is sold, distributed, or imported into the United States shall—

"(1) participate as a member of an Organization for which a Plan is approved by the Administrator; and

"(2) through that participation, satisfy the performance targets under section 12105(g).

"(b) EXEMPTIONS.—A responsible party for a covered product or beverage sold in a beverage container, including a responsible party that operates as a single point of retail sale and is not supplied by, or operated as part of, a franchise, shall not be subject to this part if the responsible party—

"(1)(A) for fiscal year 2022, has an annual revenue of less than \$1,000,000; and

"(B) for fiscal year 2023 and each subsequent fiscal year, has an annual revenue of less than the applicable amount during the preceding fiscal year, as adjusted to reflect changes for the 12-month period ending on the preceding November 30 in the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the Department of Labor; or

"(2) is the responsible party for less than 1 ton of covered products or beverage containers in commerce each year.

"(c) Enforcement.—

"(1) PROHIBITION.—It shall be unlawful for any person that is a responsible party for a covered product or beverage sold in a beverage container to sell, use, or distribute any covered product or beverage sold in a beverage container in commerce except in compliance with this part.

"(2) CIVIL PENALTY.—Any person that violates paragraph (1) shall be subject to a fine for each violation and for each day that the violation occurs in an amount of not more than \$70,117.

"(3) INJUNCTIVE RELIEF.—The Administrator may bring a civil action to enjoin the sale, distribution, or importation into the United States of a covered product or beverage sold in a beverage container in violation of this part.

"(4) STATE ENFORCEMENT.—The Administrator may permit a State to carry out enforcement under paragraph (2) or (3) if the Administrator determines that the State meets such requirements as the Administrator may establish.

"(d) INAPPLICABILITY OF THE ANTITRUST LAWS.—The antitrust laws, as defined in the first section of the Clayton Act (15 <u>U.S.C. 12</u>), shall not apply to a responsible party or Organization that carries out activities in accordance with an approved Plan if the conduct is necessary to plan and implement the Plan.

"SEC. 12102. PRODUCER RESPONSIBILITY ORGANIZATIONS.

"(a) In General.-

"(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—To satisfy the requirement under section 12101(a)(1), 1 or more responsible parties for a category of covered product or beverage sold in a beverage container shall establish a Producer Responsibility Organization that shall act as an agent and on behalf of each responsible party to carry out the responsibilities of the responsible party under this part with respect to that category of covered product or beverage sold in a beverage container.

"(2) PROGRAM.—An Organization shall establish a Product Stewardship Program to carry out the responsibilities of the Organization under this part.

"(3) COORDINATION.—If more than 1 Organization is established under paragraph (1) with respect to a category of covered product or beverage sold in a beverage container, the Administrator shall—

"(A) coordinate and manage those Organizations; or

"(B) establish an entity-

"(i) to carry out subparagraph (A); and

"(ii) to conduct business between those Organizations and State and local governments.

"(4) MULTIPLE ORGANIZATIONS.—A responsible party—

"(A) may participate in more than 1 Organization if each Organization is established for a different category of covered products or beverages sold in beverage containers; and

"(B) may participate in-

"(i) only 1 national Organization with respect to-

"(I) each category of covered products; or

"(II) beverages sold in beverage containers; or

"(ii) only 1 regional Organization with respect to beverages sold in beverage containers and each category of covered products for each region in which the covered products or beverages sold in beverage containers produced by the responsible party are sold.

"(5) NONPROFIT STATUS.—An Organization shall be established and operated as an organization described in <u>section</u> 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and exempt from taxation under 501(a) of that Code.

"(6) CATEGORIES.—The Administrator, in consultation with Organizations, shall promulgate regulations to establish categories of covered products and beverages sold in beverage containers for purposes of this part.

"(b) PARTICIPATION FEES.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (5), an Organization shall charge each responsible party a fee for membership in the Organization in accordance with this subsection.

"(2) COMPONENTS.—A fee charged to a responsible party under paragraph (1) shall include—

"(A) costs of management and cleanup in accordance with paragraph (3); and

"(B) administrative costs in accordance with paragraph (4).

"(3) MANAGEMENT AND CLEANUP COSTS.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—A fee under paragraph (1) shall include, with respect to a responsible party, the costs of management (which shall include costs assessed by the advisory committee for the Organization, in consultation with municipalities, other government entities, contracted entities, and other stakeholders, for collecting, transporting, processing, recycling, and composting) or cleaning up the covered products or beverage containers of the responsible party after consumer use through the applicable Program, including administrative costs.

"(B) CONSIDERATIONS.—In determining the costs of management and cleanup described in subparagraph (A) with respect to a responsible party, an Organization shall, at a minimum, take into account—

"(i) the cost to properly manage the applicable category of covered product or beverage container waste;

"(ii) the cost to assist in cleaning up the covered product or beverage container waste, including waste generated before the date of enactment of this subtitle, of the responsible party from—

"(I) public places;

"(II) freshwater and marine environments, to the extent that cleanup can be accomplished without harming the existing marine life and intact ecosystems; and

"(III) materials in compost facilities or other facilities handling organic wastes;

"(iii) to the extent that cleanup of the covered products or beverage containers from freshwater and marine environments cannot be accomplished without harming the existing freshwater and marine life and intact ecosystems, the cost of other appropriate mitigation measures;

"(iv) the higher cost of managing covered products that-

"(I) bond materials together, making the covered product more difficult to recycle, such as plastic bonded with paper or metal;

"(II) would typically be recyclable or compostable, but, as a consequence of the design of the covered product, has the effect of disrupting recycling or composting processes;

"(III) includes labels, inks, liners, and adhesives containing-

"(aa) heavy metals; or

"(bb) effective beginning on February 1, 2023, other toxic substances; or

"(IV) cannot be mechanically recycled;

"(v) the lower cost of managing-

"(I) beverage containers that have-

"(aa) nondetachable caps; or

"(bb) other innovations and design characteristics to prevent littering; and

"(II) contact containers and other covered products that-

"(aa) are specifically designed to be reusable or refillable; and

"(bb) have a high reuse or refill rate;

"(vi) covered products with lower environmental impacts, including-

"(I) covered products that are made of-

"(aa) sustainable or renewably sourced materials; or

"(bb) at least 90 percent by weight of any combination of-

"(AA) postconsumer recycled content; or

"(BB) materials derived from land or freshwater or marine environment litter; and

"(II) compostable covered products that-

"(aa) have direct contact with food; or

"(bb) help divert food waste from a landfill; and

"(vii) the percentage of postconsumer recycled content verified by an independent party designated by the Administrator that exceeds the minimum requirements established under section 12302 in the packaging, if the recycled content does not disrupt the potential for future recycling.

"(4) ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—A fee under paragraph (1) shall include—

"(i) the administrative costs to the Organization of carrying out the Program;

"(ii) the cost to the Administrator of administering this part with respect to the applicable Organization, including-

"(I) oversight, including annual oversight;

- "(II) issuance of any rules;
- "(III) planning;
- "(IV) Plan review;

"(V) compliance;

"(VI) outreach and education;

"(VII) professional language interpretation and translation services for all publicly distributed materials;

"(VIII) enforcement;

"(IX) sufficient staff positions to administer this part; and

"(X) other activities directly related to the activities described in subclauses (I) through (IX); and

"(iii) the cost to a State for carrying out enforcement with respect to the applicable Organization.

"(B) CONSIDERATION.—In determining the fee for a responsible party under subparagraph (A), an Organization shall consider the company size and annual revenue of the responsible party.

"(C) REIMBURSEMENT.—An Organization shall reimburse—

"(i) the Administrator for costs described subparagraph (A)(ii) incurred by the Administrator; and

"(ii) a State for costs described in subparagraph (A)(iii) incurred by the State.

"(D) ADMINISTRATOR REIMBURSEMENTS ACCOUNT.--

"(i) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall deposit reimbursements received from an Organization under subparagraph (C)(i) into a dedicated account established for that Organization, which shall be available to the Administrator for activities of the Administrator associated with overseeing the Plan and Program of the Organization.

"(ii) REPORTS.—Not less frequently than annually, the Administrator shall—

"(I) submit to Congress a report describing the amount of reimbursements deposited into each account under clause (i); and

"(II) make the report described in subclause (I) publicly available.

"(5) APPROVAL.-

"(A) IN GENERAL.—Before an Organization may charge a fee or revise the amount of a fee to be charged under paragraph (1)—

"(i) the Organization shall submit to the Administrator the fee structure and the methodology for determining that fee structure; and

"(ii)_(I) the Organization shall receive notification of approval of the fee structure under subparagraph (B)(ii); or

"(II) the fee structure shall be considered approved under subparagraph (C).

"(B) APPROVAL.—Not later than 60 days after receipt of a fee structure under subparagraph (A)(i), the Administrator shall—

"(i)_(I) approve the fee structure if the Administrator determines that the fee structure is in accordance with this subsection; or

"(II) deny the fee structure if the Administrator determines that the fee structure is not in accordance with this subsection; and

"(ii) notify the Organization of-

"(I) the determination under clause (i); and

"(II) in the case of a denial under clause (i)(II), the reasons for the denial and recommendations for revisions that are likely to be approved.

"(C) FAILURE TO MEET DEADLINE.—If the Administrator does not make a determination under clause (i) of subparagraph (B) by the date required under that subparagraph, the fee structure shall be considered to be approved.

"(c) Advisory Committees.----

"(1) IN GENERAL.—An Organization shall establish an advisory committee that represents a range of interested and engaged persons relevant to the category of covered products or beverages sold in beverage containers of the applicable Program, including

"(A) collection providers;

"(B) cleanup service providers;

"(C) recyclers;

"(D) composters; and

"(E) governmental entities.

"(2) COMPOSITION .---

"(A) IN GENERAL.—At a minimum, an advisory committee shall include individuals representing each of—

"(i) responsible parties, such as a trade association;

"(ii) States;

"(iii) cities, including—

"(I) small and large cities; and

"(II) cities located in urban and rural counties;

"(iv) counties, including-

"(I) small and large counties; and

"(II) urban and rural counties;

"(v) public sector recycling, composting, and solid waste industries for the applicable type of product or packaging;

"(vi) private sector recycling, composting, and solid waste industries for the applicable type of product or packaging;

"(vii) recycled feedstock users for the applicable type of product or packaging;

"(viii) public place litter programs;

"(ix) freshwater and marine litter programs;

"(x) environmental organizations;

"(xi) disability advocates;

"(xii) Indian Tribes; and

"(xiii) environmental and human health scientists.

"(B) REQUIREMENTS.—

"(i) IN GENERAL.—Each individual serving on an advisory committee may represent only 1 category described in clauses (i) through (xiii) of subparagraph (A).

"(ii) DISPROPORTIONATE REPRESENTATION.—An Organization shall ensure that no category described in clauses (i) through (xiii) of subparagraph (A) has disproportionate representation on an advisory committee.
"(3) PUBLIC COMMENT.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—Each year, an Organization shall provide a process to receive comments from additional stakeholders and community members, which to the maximum extent practicable shall include diverse ethnic populations.

"(B) COMMUNICATION METHODS AND REQUIREMENTS.—With respect to the public comment process described in subparagraph (A), an Organization—

"(i) shall provide translation services; and

"(ii)_(I) shall not require members of the public to produce a form of identification or register their names, provide other information, complete a questionnaire, or otherwise fulfill any condition precedent to attending a public hearing; and

"(II) shall include on any attendance list, register, questionnaire, or other similar document that is used during a public hearing a clear statement that the signing, registering, or completion of the document is voluntary.

"(4) EXPENSES.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—An Organization shall reimburse representatives of community groups, Indian Tribes, State and local governments, and nonprofit organizations for expenses relating to participating on the advisory committee.

"(B) OTHER MEMBERS.—Other members of the advisory committee may be compensated for travel expenses as needed to ensure the ability of those members to participate on the advisory committee.

"(C) LANGUAGE AND INTERPRETATION SERVICES.—An Organization shall be financially responsible for providing translation services under paragraphs (3)(B)(i) and (6)(E).

"(5) DUTIES OF ADVISORY COMMITTEES .- An advisory committee shall-

"(A)_(i) prepare a Plan for the Organization and any revisions to that Plan; and

"(ii) submit to the Organization that Plan or revisions to the Plan for review and approval under paragraph (6)(B); and

"(B) submit to the Organization and directly to the Administrator any reports, recommendations, or objections of the advisory committee relating to the Plan, fee structure, or other activities of the Organization.

"(6) DUTIES .- An Organization-

"(A) shall hold an advisory committee meeting at least once per year;

"(B) shall review and approve the Plan or revisions to the Plan submitted by an advisory committee under paragraph (5) (A)(ii) prior to the submission to the Administrator of the Plan or revisions under section 12105;

"(C) shall include a summary of advisory committee engagement and input in the report under section 12107;

"(D) shall not modify a Plan without the approval of the advisory committee of the Organization; and

"(E) shall provide translation services for any member of the advisory committee.

"SEC. 12103. COVERED PRODUCT MANAGEMENT.

"(a) IN GENERAL.-In carrying out a Program, a responsible party, acting through an Organization, shall-

"(1) meet the performance targets under the applicable Plan, as described in section 12105(g)-

"(A) in the case of covered products, by providing for the collection and sorting of covered products in accordance with subsection (b); or

"(B) in the case of beverage containers, by carrying out the responsibilities under section 12104(e); and

"(2) in accordance with subsection (c), provide for the cleanup of covered products or beverage containers that become litter. "(b) COLLECTION.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—A Program shall provide widespread, convenient, and equitable access to opportunities for the collection of covered products in accordance with this subsection.

"(2) CONVENIENCE.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subparagraph (B), collection opportunities described in paragraph (1) shall—

"(i) be provided throughout each State, Tribal land, and territory in which the applicable covered product is sold, including in rural and island communities;

"(ii) be as convenient as trash collection in the applicable area; and

"(iii) in a case in which collection of the applicable covered product by curbside collection is not practicable, be, as determined by the Administrator, and in the case of a city with a population of 750,000 or more residents, subject to the approval of the city, available for not less than 95 percent of the population of the applicable area within—

"(I) in the case of an urban area, a 10-minute walk; or

"(II) in the case of a rural area, the longer of—

"(aa) a 45-minute drive; and

"(bb) the time to drive to the nearest rural service center.

"(B) WAIVER.-The Administrator may waive the requirement under subparagraph (A) after-

"(i) consultation with the advisory committee of the applicable Organization and other appropriate stakeholders; and

"(ii) approval by the unit of local government with jurisdiction over the applicable area.

"(3) METHODS.—

"(A) CURBSIDE OR MULTIFAMILY COLLECTION.—With respect to a geographic area described in paragraph (2) (A), an Organization shall, at a minimum, provide the opportunity for the collection of the applicable covered product through a curbside or multifamily recycling collection service, if—

"(i) curbside collection is provided, as of the date of enactment of this subtitle, to residents in single family and multifamily residences in an applicable area;

"(ii) the category of covered product-

"(I) is suitable for curbside or multifamily recycling collection; and

"(II) can be effectively sorted by facilities receiving the covered product after collection; and

"(iii) the provider of the service agrees-

"(I) to accept the category of covered product; and

"(II) to a compensation agreement described in subparagraph (C).

"(B) OTHER METHODS.—In addition to the method described in subparagraph (A), an Organization may comply with the requirement under paragraph (1) by—

"(i) entering into an agreement with-

"(I) an entity that carries out a program through which consumers may drop off the covered product at a designated location (commonly known as a 'depot drop-off program'); or

"(II) a retailer that accepts the covered product from consumers (commonly known as 'retailer take-back'); or

"(ii) such other means as the Organization determines to be appropriate, including by establishing a collection program or service, including a program or service that provides collection from public spaces.

"(C) COMPENSATION AGREEMENTS.-

"(i) IN GENERAL.—An Organization may comply with this subsection by entering into an agreement with a governmental or private entity under which the Organization compensates the entity for the collection of covered products.

"(ii) REQUIREMENT.—As part of a compensation agreement under clause (i), an Organization shall offer to provide reimbursement of not less than 100 percent of the cost to the entity of managing the covered products, including, as applicable, administrative costs, sorting, and reprocessing.

(4) MANAGING COLLECTED COVERED PRODUCTS.—In carrying out this subsection, an Organization shall—

"(A) ensure that-

"(i) the collection means and systems used direct the covered product waste to-

"(I) facilities that are effective in sorting and reprocessing covered product waste prior to shipment in a form ready for remanufacture into new products; or

"(II) other facilities that the Administrator determines appropriately manage the covered product waste;

"(ii) covered products are managed in an environmentally sound and socially just manner at reprocessing, disposal, or other facilities operating with human health and environmental protection standards that are broadly equivalent to the standards required in—

"(I) the United States; or

"(II) other countries that are members of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development; and

"(iii) the Program includes measures to track, verify, and publicly report that covered products are managed responsibly and not reexported to countries in which standards described in clause (ii) are not met; and

"(B) take measures—

"(i) to promote high-quality recycling that retains material quality;

"(ii) to meet the necessary quality standards for the relevant facilities that manufacture new products from the collected, sorted, and reprocessed materials; and

"(iii) to prioritize the recycling of products and packaging into uses that achieve the greatest environmental benefits from displacing the use of virgin materials.

"(5) COSTS.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—A responsible party or an Organization may not charge an entity described in subparagraph (B) any amount for the cost of carrying out this subsection.

"(B) ENTITIES DESCRIBED.—An entity referred to in subparagraph (A) is a single family or multifamily dwelling or publicly owned land (such as a sidewalk, plaza, and park) for which a recycling collection service is provided.

"(6) EFFECT.-Nothing in this subsection-

"(A) requires a governmental entity to provide for the collection of covered products; or

"(B) prohibits a governmental entity from providing for the collection and sorting of covered products.

"(c) CLEANUP; REDUCTION IN WASTE.—A Program shall—

"(1) provide funding to, and coordinate with, entities that collect covered product or beverage container litter from public places or freshwater or marine environments in the United States, including Tribal land and territories; and

"(2) coordinate product design and Program innovations to reduce covered product or beverage container waste.

"(d) MINIMUM FUNDING REQUIREMENTS.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.-Of Program expenditures for a fiscal year, an Organization shall ensure that-

"(A)_(i) for the 10-year period beginning on the date on which the Organization is established, not less than 50 percent is used for the improvement and development of new market, recycling, or composting infrastructure in the United States, which may include installing or upgrading equipment at existing sorting and reprocessing facilities—

"(I) to improve sorting of covered product waste; or

"(II) to mitigate the impacts of covered product waste to other commodities; and

"(ii) for each year thereafter, such percentage as the Administrator may establish, but not less than 10 percent, is used for the purposes described in clause (i); and

"(B) not less than 10 percent is used for-

"(i) cleanup activities under subsection (c)(1); and

"(ii) the removal of covered product or beverage container contaminants at compost facilities and other facilities that manage organic materials.

"(2) DETERMINATION OF EXPENDITURES.—For purposes of carrying out paragraph (1), Program expenditures for a fiscal year shall be based on—

"(A) in the case of the first fiscal year of the Program, budgeted expenditures for the fiscal year; and

"(B) in the case of each fiscal year thereafter, Program expenditures for the previous fiscal year.

"SEC. 12104. NATIONAL BEVERAGE CONTAINER PROGRAM.

"(a) RESPONSIBILITIES OF RESPONSIBLE PARTIES.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—Each responsible party for beverages sold in beverage containers shall—

"(A) charge to a retailer to which the beverage in a beverage container is delivered a deposit in the amount of the applicable refund value described in subsection (c) on delivery; and

"(B) on receipt of an empty beverage container from a retailer, pay to the retailer a refund in the amount of the applicable refund value described in subsection (c).

"(2) USE OF DEPOSITS FROM UNREDEEMED BEVERAGE CONTAINERS.—A responsible party shall use any amounts received as deposits under paragraph (1)(A) for which an empty beverage container is not returned to the Organization responsible for the material of the beverage container for investment in collection, recycling, and reuse infrastructure.

"(b) RESPONSIBILITIES OF RETAILERS.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), each retailer of beverages in beverage containers shall—

"(A) charge to the customer to which the beverage in a beverage container is sold a deposit in the amount of the applicable refund value described in subsection (c) on the sale;

"(B) on receipt of an empty beverage container from a customer, pay to the customer a refund in the amount of the applicable refund value described in subsection (c);

"(C) accept a beverage container and pay a refund under subparagraph (B)-

"(i) during any period that the retailer is open for business; and

"(ii) regardless of whether the specific beverage container was sold by the retailer; and

"(D) in the case of a retailer that is equal to or greater than 5,000 square feet, accept any brand and size of beverage container and pay a refund under subparagraph (B) for the beverage container, regardless of whether the retailer sells that brand or size of beverage container.

"(2) EXCEPTIONS.—

"(A) DIRTY OR DAMAGED.—A retailer described in paragraph (1) may refuse to accept a beverage container and pay a refund under paragraph (1)(B) if the beverage container—

"(i) visibly contains or is contaminated by a substance other than-

"(I) water;

"(II) residue of the original contents; or

4/18/22, 1:40 PM

Text - H.R.2238 - 117th Congress (2021-2022): Break Free From Plastic Pollution Act of 2021 | Congress.gov | Library of Congress

"(III) ordinary dust; or

"(ii) is so damaged that the brand or refund label appearing on the container cannot be identified.

"(B) CONTAINER LIMITATION.—

"(i) LARGE RETAILERS.—A retailer described in paragraph (1) that is equal to or greater than 5,000 square feet may refuse to accept, and pay a refund under paragraph (1)(B) for, more than 250 beverage containers per person per day.

"(ii) SMALL RETAILERS.—A retailer described in paragraph (1) that is less than 5,000 square feet may refuse to accept, and pay a refund under paragraph (1)(B) for, more than 50 beverage containers per person per day.

"(C) BRAND AND SIZE.—A retailer described in paragraph (1) that is less than 5,000 square feet may refuse to accept, and pay a refund under paragraph (1)(B) for, a brand or size of beverage container that the retailer does not sell.

"(D) RESTAURANTS.—A retailer described in paragraph (1) that is a restaurant may refuse to accept, and pay a refund under paragraph (1)(B) for, a beverage container that the restaurant did not sell.

"(E) OTHER MEANS OF RETURN.—The Administrator may permit the establishment of convenience zones, under which a retailer within a convenience zone is exempt from this subsection if the Administrator determines that the retailer—

"(i) is located within close proximity to a redemption center established under subsection (e)(2); and

"(ii) shares in the cost of the operation of that redemption center with the responsible party.

"(c) Applicable Refund Value.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—The amount of the refund value referred to in subsections (a) and (b) shall be not less than 10 cents.

"(2) ADJUSTMENTS.—Beginning on the date that is 3 years after the date of enactment of this subtitle, the Administrator may—

"(A) increase the minimum refund value under paragraph (1) to account for-

"(i) inflation; and

"(ii) other factors, such as a failure to meet performance targets described in section 12105(g); or

"(B) decrease the minimum refund value under paragraph (1) to account for beverage containers that-

"(i) are specifically designed to be reusable or refillable; and

"(ii) have a high reuse or refill rate.

"(3) DISCRETIONARY INCREASES.—A responsible party, with respect to a covered product or beverage container, or a State may require a refund value that is more than the minimum refund value under paragraph (1).

"(d) LABELING.—Any manufacturer, importer, or distributor of a beverage in a beverage container that is sold in the United States shall include on the label of the beverage container a standardized description of the applicable refund value in such a manner that the description is clearly visible.

"(e) RESPONSIBILITIES OF ORGANIZATIONS.—

"(1) COLLECTION AND STORAGE.—An Organization of responsible parties for beverages sold in beverage containers shall facilitate collection and storage of beverage containers that are returned to retailers under this section by providing storage or other means to collect the beverage containers until collection for recycling, such as reverse vending or other convenient options for consumers.

"(2) REDEMPTION CENTERS.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—An Organization of responsible parties for beverages sold in beverage containers shall establish and operate facilities to accept beverage containers from consumers.

"(B) REQUIREMENTS.—A facility established under subparagraph (A) shall—

"(i) be staffed and available to the public-

"(I) each day other than a Federal or local holiday; and

"(II) not less than 10 hours each day;

"(ii) accept-

"(I) any beverage container; and

"(II) not less than 350 beverage containers per person per day; and

"(iii) provide-

"(I) hand or automated counts conducted by staff of the facility;

"(II) a drop door for consumers to drop off bags of mixed beverage containers for staff of the facility to count, for which the facility may collect a convenience fee; or

"(III) any other convenient means of receiving and counting beverage containers, as determined by the Administrator.

"(3) CURBSIDE COLLECTION.—An Organization may pay an entity that collects curbside recycling the value of the applicable refund value under subsection (c) for beverage containers collected, based on weight or another measurement that approximates the amount of the refunds, as negotiated by the Organization and the entity.

"(f) EXCLUDED STATES.—

"(1) DEFINITION OF ELIGIBLE STATE.-In this subsection, the term 'eligible State' means a State that-

"(A) has in effect a beverage container law before the date of enactment of this subtitle; and

"(B) enacts legislation after the date of enactment of this subtitle to update the beverage container law described in subparagraph (A) to be consistent with the refund value amounts under, and beverage containers covered by, this part.

"(2) COMPLIANCE WITH STATE LAW.—In the case of an eligible State, compliance with the law of the eligible State by a distributor, retailer, manufacturer, importer, or Organization shall be considered to be compliance with this section.

"(3) CONFORMITY.—An eligible State is encouraged to negotiate with relevant Organizations on updated features of the beverage container law of the eligible State, such as sharing new revenue from increased deposits.

"SEC. 12105. PRODUCT STEWARDSHIP PLANS.

"(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than February 1, 2023, each Organization shall submit to the Administrator a Product Stewardship Plan that describes how the Organization will carry out the responsibilities of the Organization under this part.

"(b) CONTENTS.—Each Plan shall contain, at a minimum—

"(1) contact information for the Organization submitting the Plan;

"(2) a list of participating responsible parties and brands covered by the applicable Program, including organization structure for each responsible party; and

"(3) a description of-

"(A) each category of covered product or beverage sold in a beverage container covered by the Plan;

"(B) funding for the Organization, including how fees will be structured and collected in accordance with section 12102(b)(5).

"(C) performance targets under subsection (g);

"(D) the means by which each type of covered product or beverage container will be collected in accordance with section 12103 or 12104, as applicable, to meet—

"(i) the consumer convenience and geographic coverage standards for collection under this part; and

"(ii) the performance targets under subsection (g);

"(E) consumer education plans in accordance with section 12106;

"(F) a customer service process, such as a process for answering citizen or customer questions and resolving issues;

"(G) sound management practices for worker health and safety;

"(H) plans for complying with design-for-environment and labeling requirements under sections 12303 and 12304, respectively;

"(I) the means by which responsible parties will work with, improve, and fund existing recycling, composting, litter cleanup, and disposal programs and infrastructure;

"(J) any plans to transition to reusable covered products;

"(K) the process to consider and establish innovative means to increase collection of covered products;

"(L) the means by which the Organization is mitigating fraud in the applicable Program;

"(M) the means by which responsible parties will consult with the Federal Government, State and local governments, and any other important stakeholders; and

"(N) plans for market development.

"(c) APPROVAL OR DENIAL.—Not later than 90 days after receiving a Plan under subsection (a), the Administrator shall—

"(1) approve or deny the Plan; and

"(2) notify the applicable Organization of the determination of the Administrator under paragraph (1).

"(d) IMPLEMENTATION.—Beginning on August 1, 2023, not later than 60 days after receiving a notification of approval of a Plan under subsection (c)(2), the applicable Organization shall begin implementation of the Plan.

"(e) EXPIRATION.—A Plan—

"(1) shall expire on the date that is 5 years after the date on which the Plan is approved; and

"(2) may be renewed.

"(f) REVISIONS.—The Administrator may require a revision to a Plan before the expiration date of the Plan if—

"(1) the performance targets under subsection (g) are not being met; or

"(2) there is a change in circumstances that otherwise warrants a revision.

"(g) Performance Targets.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—Each Plan shall contain achievable performance targets for the collection and recycling of the applicable covered product or beverage container in accordance with section 12103 or 12104, as applicable.

"(2) MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS.—Performance targets under paragraph (1) shall be not less than, by weight of covered product—

"(A) by December 31, 2027—

"(i) 65 percent of all covered products, except paper, recycled;

"(ii) 75 percent of all beverage containers and paper covered products recycled; and

"(iii) 50 percent of all industrially compostable covered products composted;

"(B) by December 31, 2030, 15 percent of covered products for which packaging is eliminated or offered in reusable packaging;

"(C) by such dates as the Administrator determines to be appropriate after December 31, 2030, such percentage of covered products for which packaging shall be eliminated or that shall be offered in reusable packaging as the Administrator determines to be appropriate; and

"(D) by December 31, 2032—

"(i) 80 percent of all covered products, except paper, recycled;

"(ii) 90 percent of all beverage containers and paper covered products recycled; and

"(iii) 70 percent of all industrially compostable covered products composted.

"(3) LABELING RESTRICTION.—A responsible party for a covered product shall not include on the covered product a label claiming that the covered product is recyclable or compostable if the covered product does not satisfy the performance targets under paragraph (2).

"SEC. 12106. OUTREACH AND EDUCATION.

"(a) IN GENERAL.—A Program shall include the provision of outreach and education to consumers throughout the United States regarding—

"(1) proper end-of-life management of covered products and beverage containers;

"(2) the location and availability of curbside and drop-off collection opportunities;

"(3) how to prevent litter of covered products and beverage containers; and

"(4) recycling and composting instructions that are-

"(A) consistent nationwide, except as necessary to take into account differences among State and local laws;

"(B) easy to understand; and

"(C) easily accessible, including accessibility in multiple languages to reach a diverse ethnic population.

"(b) ACTIVITIES.—Outreach and education under subsection (a) shall—

"(1) be designed to achieve the management goals of covered products and beverage containers under this part, including the prevention of contamination by covered products and beverage containers in other management systems or in other materials;

"(2) be coordinated across programs nationally to avoid confusion for consumers; and

"(3) include, at a minimum—

"(A) consulting on education, outreach, and communications with the advisory committee of the applicable Organization and other stakeholders;

"(B) coordinating with and assisting local municipal programs, municipal contracted programs, solid waste collection companies, and other entities providing services to the Program;

"(C) developing and providing outreach and education to the diverse ethnic populations of the United States through translated and culturally appropriate materials, including in-language and targeted outreach;

"(D) establishing consumer websites and mobile applications that provide information about methods to prevent covered product and beverage container pollution and how consumers may access and use collection services;

"(E) working with Program participants to label covered products and beverage containers with information to assist consumers in responsibly managing covered product and beverage container waste; and

"(F) determining the effectiveness of outreach, education, communications, and convenience of services through periodic surveys of consumers.

"(c) EVALUATION.—If the Administrator determines that performance targets under section 12105(g) are not being met with respect to an Organization, the Organization shall—

"(1) conduct an evaluation of the effectiveness of outreach and education efforts under this section to determine whether changes are necessary to improve those outreach and education efforts; and

"(2) develop information that may be used to improve outreach and education efforts under this section.

"SEC. 12107. REPORTING.

"(a) IN GENERAL.—An Organization shall annually make available on a publicly available website a report that contains—

"(1) with respect to covered products or beverages in beverage containers sold or imported by members of the Organization, a description of, at a minimum—

"(A) the quantity of covered products or beverage containers sold or imported and collected, by submaterial type and State, for the year covered by the report and each prior year;

"(B) management of the covered products or beverage containers, including recycling rates, by submaterial type, for the year covered by the report and each prior year;

"(C) data on the final destination and quantity of reclaimed covered products or beverage containers, by submaterial type, including the form of any covered products or beverage containers exported;

"(D) contamination in the recycling stream of the covered products or beverage containers;

"(E) collection service vendors and collection locations, including-

"(i) the geographic distribution of collection;

"(ii) distance to population centers;

"(iii) hours;

"(iv) actions taken to reduce barriers to collection by expanding curbside collection or facilitating drop-offs; and

"(v) frequency of collection availability;

"(F) efforts to reduce environmental impacts at each stage of the lifecycle of the covered products or beverage containers; and

"(G) the quantity of covered products that have been eliminated or replaced by reusable packaging, delineated by submaterial type and State, for the year covered by the report and for each prior year for which a report was submitted;

"(2) the composition of the advisory committee for the Organization;

"(3) expenses of the Organization;

"(4) outreach and education efforts under section 12106, including the results of those efforts;

"(5) customer service efforts and results;

"(6) performance relative to the performance targets of the Plan under section 12105(g);

"(7) the status of packaging innovation and design characteristics to prevent littering, make covered products or beverage containers reusable or refillable, or reduce overall covered product and beverage container waste; and

"(8) any other information that the Administrator determines to be appropriate.

"(b) CONSISTENCY.—Organizations shall make efforts to coordinate reporting under subsection (a) to provide for consistency of information across a category of covered products or beverage containers.

"(c) AUDITS.-Every 2 years, the Administrator shall conduct an audit of-

"(1) collection and recycling to provide an accounting of the collection and recycling of covered products and beverage containers that are not produced by a responsible party or an Organization; and

"(2) covered products and beverage containers of brand names found in litter to provide for an accounting of covered products and other litter that continues to create pollution.

"(d) REDUCTIONS IN STATE AND LOCAL TAXES.—Not later than February 1, 2025, and annually thereafter, the Administrator shall prepare and make publicly available a report describing—

"(1) the effect of this part on costs incurred by State and local governments for the management and cleanup of covered products and beverage containers; and

"(2) any reductions in State and local taxes as a result of any reductions of costs described in paragraph (1).

"PART II—REDUCTION OF SINGLE-USE PRODUCTS

"SEC. 12201. PROHIBITION ON SINGLE-USE PLASTIC CARRYOUT BAGS.

"(a) DEFINITION OF SINGLE-USE PLASTIC BAG.—In this section:

"(1) IN GENERAL.-The term 'single-use plastic bag' means a bag that is-

"(A) made of plastic; and

"(B) provided by a covered retail or service establishment to a customer at the point of sale, home delivery, the check stand, cash register, or other point of departure to a customer for use to transport, deliver, or carry away purchases.

"(2) EXCLUSIONS.-The term 'single-use plastic bag' does not include-

"(A) a bag that is subject to taxation under section 4056 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986;

"(B) a bag that—

"(i) is made a material other than plastic film;

4/18/22, 1:40 PM

Text - H.R.2238 - 117th Congress (2021-2022): Break Free From Plastic Pollution Act of 2021 | Congress.gov | Library of Congress

"(ii) is woven or nonwoven nylon, polypropylene, polyethylene-terephthalate, or Tyvek in a quantity less than 80 grams per square meter;

"(iii) has handles that are stitched and not heat-fused; and

"(iv) is machine washable; or

"(C) a covered product that is-

"(i) used by a consumer inside a store-

"(I) to package bulk items, such as fruit, vegetables, nuts, grains, candy, unwrapped prepared foods or bakery goods, or small hardware items; or

"(II) to contain or wrap-

"(aa) prepackaged or non-prepackaged frozen foods, meat, or fish; or

"(bb) flowers, potted plants, or other items the dampness of which may require the use of the nonhandled bag;

"(ii) a bag sold at retail in packages containing multiple bags intended to contain garbage or pet waste;

"(iii) a newspaper bag;

"(iv) a door hanger bag; or

"(v) a laundry or dry cleaning bag.

"(b) PROHIBITION.—A covered retail or service establishment shall not provide at the point of sale a single-use plastic bag to a customer.

"(c) Enforcement.—

"(1) WRITTEN NOTIFICATION FOR FIRST VIOLATION.—If a covered retail or service establishment violates subsection (b), the Administrator shall provide that covered retail or service establishment with written notification regarding the violation of the requirement under that subsection.

"(2) SUBSEQUENT VIOLATIONS.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—If a covered retail or service establishment, subsequent to receiving a written notification described in paragraph (1), violates subsection (b), the Administrator shall fine the covered retail or service establishment in accordance with subparagraph (B).

"(B) AMOUNT OF PENALTY.—For each violation during a calendar year, the amount of the penalty under subparagraph (A) shall be—

"(i) in the case of the first violation, \$250;

"(ii) in the case of the second violation, \$500; and

"(iii) in the case of the third violation or any subsequent violation, \$1,000.

"(C) SEIZURE.—On a third violation or any subsequent violation under this paragraph by a covered retail or service establishment, the Administrator may seize any single-use plastic bags in the possession of the covered retail or service establishment.

"(D) LIMITATION.—In the case of a covered retail or service establishment the annual revenue of which is less than \$1,000,000, a penalty shall not be imposed under this paragraph more than once during any 7-day period.

"(3) STATE ENFORCEMENT.—The Administrator may permit a State to carry out enforcement under this subsection if the Administrator determines that the State meets such requirements as the Administrator may establish.

"(d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The prohibition under this section shall take effect on January 1, 2023.

"SEC. 12202. REDUCTION OF OTHER SINGLE-USE PRODUCTS.

"(a) Prohibition On Plastic Utensils And Plastic Straws.—

"(1) UTENSILS.—A covered retail or service establishment may not use, provide, distribute, or sell a plastic utensil.

"(2) PLASTIC STRAWS.----

"(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subparagraphs (B) and (C), a covered retail or service establishment that sells food or beverages—

"(i) except as provided in clause (ii), may not provide a plastic straw to a customer;

"(ii) shall provide a plastic straw to a customer who requests a plastic straw;

"(iii) shall provide accessible means of communication, across all ordering platforms used by the covered retail or service establishment (such as online, mobile, and in-person), for customers to request a plastic straw; and

"(iv) shall keep in stock plastic straws for customers who request plastic straws.

"(B) EFFECTIVE FUNCTIONAL EQUIVALENTS.—If the Administrator, in consultation with the National Council on Disability and advocates representing the disability and environmental communities, determines that an effective functional

equivalent to a plastic straw that can be recycled, composted, or disposed with minimal harm to the environment has been developed-

"(i) subparagraph (A) shall no longer apply; and

"(ii) a covered retail or service establishment may not provide a plastic straw to a customer.

"(C) EXCLUSION.—Subparagraph (A) shall not apply to the sale of plastic straws in bulk for home or personal use.

"(3) NONPLASTIC ALTERNATIVES.—A covered retail or service establishment may provide, distribute, or sell a reusable, compostable, or recyclable alternative to a plastic utensil or plastic straw only—

"(A) on request of a customer;

"(B) in the case of a compostable or recyclable alternative, if composting or recycling, as applicable, for the item is provided and locally accessible; and

"(C) effective beginning on February 1, 2023, if the alternative does not contain a toxic substance.

"(b) PROHIBITION ON OTHER SINGLE-USE PRODUCTS.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraphs (3) and (4), a covered retail or service establishment may not sell or distribute any single-use product that the Administrator determines is not recyclable or compostable and can be replaced by a reusable or refillable item.

"(2) INCLUSIONS.—In the prohibition under paragraph (1), the Administrator shall include—

"(A) expanded polystyrene for use in food service products, disposable consumer coolers, or shipping packaging;

"(B) single-use personal care products, such as miniature bottles containing shampoo, soap, and lotion that are provided at hotels or motels;

"(C) noncompostable produce stickers; and

"(D) such other products that the Administrator determines by regulation to be appropriate.

"(3) EXCEPTION.—The prohibition under paragraph (1) shall not apply to the sale or distribution of an expanded polystyrene cooler for any medical use determined to be necessary by the Secretary of Health and Human Services.

"(4) TEMPORARY WAIVER.—The Administrator may grant a temporary waiver of not more than 1 year from the prohibition under paragraph (1) for the use of expanded polystyrene in shipping packaging to protect a product of high value if a viable alternative to expanded polystyrene is not available.

"(c) Enforcement.—

"(1) WRITTEN NOTIFICATION FOR FIRST VIOLATION.—If a covered retail or service establishment violates subsection (a) or (b), the Administrator shall provide that covered retail or service establishment with written notification regarding the violation of the requirement under that subsection.

"(2) SUBSEQUENT VIOLATIONS.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—If any covered retail or service establishment, subsequent to receiving a written notification described in paragraph (1), violates subsection (a) or (b), the Administrator shall fine the covered retail or service establishment in accordance with subparagraph (B).

"(B) AMOUNT OF PENALTY.—For each violation during a calendar year, the amount of the penalty under subparagraph (A) shall be—

"(i) in the case of the first violation, \$250;

"(ii) in the case of the second violation, \$500; and

"(iii) in the case of the third violation or any subsequent violation, \$1,000.

"(C) SEIZURE.—On a third violation or any subsequent violation under this paragraph by a covered retail or service establishment, the Administrator may seize any plastic products prohibited under subsection (a) or (b) that are in the possession of the covered retail or service establishment.

"(D) LIMITATION.—In the case of a covered retail or service establishment the annual revenue of which is less than \$1,000,000, a penalty shall not be imposed under this paragraph more than once during any 7-day period.

"(3) STATE ENFORCEMENT.—The Administrator may permit a State to carry out enforcement under this subsection if the Administrator determines that the State meets such requirements as the Administrator may establish.

"(d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The prohibition under this section shall take effect on January 1, 2023.

"SEC. 12203. STUDY AND ACTION ON PLASTIC TOBACCO FILTERS AND ELECTRONIC CIGARETTES.

"(a) STUDY.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this subtitle, the Administrator, in conjunction with the Commissioner of Food and Drugs and the Director of the National Institutes of Health, shall conduct a study on—

"(1) the environmental impacts and efficacy of tobacco filters made from plastic; and

"(2) the environmental impacts of electronic cigarettes, including disposable components of electronic cigarettes.

"(b) Report To Congress.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date on which the study under subsection (a) is concluded, the Administrator, in conjunction with the Commissioner of Food and Drugs, shall submit to the committees described in paragraph (2) a report describing recommendations to establish a program to reduce litter from, and the environmental impacts of, single-use tobacco filter products and electronic cigarettes.

"(2) COMMITTEES.—The committees referred to in paragraph (1) are—

"(A) the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate;

"(B) the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate;

- "(C) the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate; and
- "(D) the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives.

"(c) PUBLICATION.—On submission of the report under subsection (b)(1), the Administrator, in conjunction with the Commissioner of Food and Drugs, shall publish in the Federal Register for public comment—

"(1) the report; and

"(2) a description of the actions the Administrator and the Commissioner of Food and Drugs intend to take during the 1-year period after the date of publication to reduce litter from, and the environmental impacts of, single-use tobacco filter products and electronic cigarettes, including recommendations for incorporating plastic tobacco filters and electronic cigarette components into an extended producer responsibility program.

"PART III—RECYCLING AND COMPOSTING

"SEC. 12301. RECYCLING AND COMPOSTING COLLECTION.

"The Administrator, in consultation with Organizations, State and local governments, and affected stakeholders, shall issue guidance to standardize recycling and composting collection across communities and States.

"SEC. 12302. REQUIREMENTS FOR THE PRODUCTION OF PRODUCTS CONTAINING RECYCLED CONTENT.

"(a) Plastic Beverage Containers.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2), the Administrator shall require each responsible party for plastic beverage containers to make the plastic beverage containers—

"(A) by 2025, of 25 percent post-consumer recycled content from United States sources;

"(B) by 2030, of 50 percent post-consumer recycled content from United States sources;

"(C) by 2035, of 70 percent post-consumer recycled content from United States sources;

"(D) by 2040, of 80 percent post-consumer recycled content from United States sources; and

"(E) by such dates thereafter as the Administrator shall establish, such percentages of post-consumer recycled content from United States sources as the Administrator determines by a rule to be appropriate.

"(2) ADJUSTMENT.—After consideration of the results of the study under subsection (b)(1), the Administrator may issue regulations to modify 1 or more of the percentages described in subparagraphs (A) through (D) of paragraph (1).

"(3) NONTOXIC REQUIREMENT.—The Administrator shall require each responsible party for plastic beverage containers to ensure that, effective beginning on February 1, 2023, the plastic beverage containers do not contain any toxic substances.

"(b) Other Covered Products And Beverage Containers.—

"(1) STUDY.—The Administrator, in coordination with the Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology, the Commissioner of Food and Drugs, and the head of any other relevant Federal agency, shall carry out a study to determine the technical and safe minimum post-consumer recycled content requirements for covered products and beverage containers, including beverage containers composed of glass, aluminum, and other materials.

"(2) REPORT.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this subtitle, the Administrator shall submit to Congress a report describing the results of the study under paragraph (1), including—

"(i) an estimate of the current and projected consumption of covered products and use of beverage containers in the United States;

"(ii) an estimate of current and projected future recycling rates of covered products and beverage containers in the United States;

"(iii) an assessment of techniques and recommendations to minimize the creation of new materials for covered products and beverage containers; and

"(iv) an assessment of-

"(I) post-consumer recycled content standards for covered products and beverage containers that are technologically feasible; and

"(II) the impact of the standards described in subclause (I) on recycling rates of covered products and beverage containers.

"(B) PUBLICATION.—On submission of the report under subparagraph (A) to Congress, the Administrator shall publish in the Federal Register for public comment—

"(i) the report; and

"(ii) a description of the actions the Administrator intends to take during the 1-year period after the date of publication in the Federal Register to establish minimum post-consumer recycled content standards for covered products and beverage containers.

"(3) MINIMUM STANDARDS.-

"(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the Administrator publishes the report under paragraph (2)(B), the Administrator shall establish minimum post-consumer recycled content standards for covered products and beverage containers.

"(B) REQUIREMENT.—The standards established under subparagraph (A) shall increase the percentage by which covered products and beverage containers shall be composed of post-consumer recycled content over a time period established by the Administrator.

"SEC. 12303. DESIGNING FOR THE ENVIRONMENT.

"(a) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall require each responsible party for covered products and beverage containers to design the covered products and beverage containers to minimize the environmental and health impacts of the covered products and beverage containers.

"(b) REQUIREMENTS.—In designing covered products and beverage containers in accordance with subsection (a), to minimize the impacts of extraction, manufacture, use, and end-of-life management, a responsible party shall consider—

"(1) eliminating or reducing the quantity of material used;

"(2) effective beginning on February 1, 2023, eliminating toxic substances;

"(3) eliminating or reducing mixed-polymer and mixed-material packaging;

"(4) reducing the use of all additives;

"(5) designing for reuse, refill, and lifespan extension;

"(6) incorporating recycled materials;

"(7) designing to reduce environmental impacts across the lifecycle of a product;

"(8) incorporating sustainably and renewably sourced material;

"(9) optimizing material to use the minimum quantity of packaging necessary to effectively deliver a product without damage or spoilage;

"(10) degradability of materials in cold-water environments; and

"(11) improving recyclability and compostability.

"(c) Enforcement.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—If the Administrator determines that a responsible party for covered products or beverage containers has not designed covered products or beverage containers in accordance with subsection (b), the Administrator—

"(A) in the case of the first violation, shall provide that responsible party with written notification regarding the violation of the requirement under that subsection; and

"(B) in the case of any subsequent violation, may impose on the responsible party a fine in an amount of not more than \$70,117, as determined by the Administrator, for each violation.

"(2) USE OF FEES.—The Administrator shall transfer the amounts of fees collected under paragraph (1) to the Reduction, Recycling, and Litter Cleanup Trust Fund established by <u>section 9512</u> of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

"SEC. 12304. PRODUCT LABELING.

"(a) IN GENERAL.—A responsible party shall include labels on covered products and beverage containers that—

"(1) are easy to read; and

"(2) indicate that the covered product or beverage container is-

"(A) recyclable;

- "(B) not recyclable;
- "(C) compostable; or
- "(D) reusable;

"(3) in the case of a covered product or beverage container that is not recyclable, does not include the universal chasing arrows recycling symbol or any other similar symbol that would lead a consumer to believe that the item should be sorted for recycling;

"(4) in the case of a plastic bag that is not compostable, is not tinted green or brown;

"(5) in the case of a compostable bag, is tinted green or brown and includes information identifying the entity designated by the Administrator that has certified that the product is compostable;

"(6) in the case of a covered product or beverage container that is compostable, includes a green or brown stripe or similar marking to identify that the item is compostable; and

"(7) in the case of a covered wipe product (as defined in subsection (a) of section 12305), satisfy the requirements under the regulations issued under subsection (b) of that section.

"(b) STANDARDIZED LABELS.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this subtitle, the Administrator shall establish or approve a standardized label for each category of covered product and beverage container to be used by responsible parties under subsection (a).

"(c) REQUIREMENT.—A label described in subsection (a), including a shrink sleeve—

"(1) shall be compatible with the intended method of discard for the covered product or beverage container; and

"(2) shall not require removal by consumers.

"(d) COMPATIBILITY.—The Administrator shall encourage label manufacturers, in coordination with the supply chains of those manufacturers, including substrate suppliers, converters, and ink suppliers, to work with the recycling industry to address label recycling compatibility challenges.

"(e) Enforcement.—

"(1) PROHIBITION.—It shall be unlawful for any person that is a responsible party for a covered product or beverage sold in a beverage container to sell, use, or distribute any covered product or beverage sold in a beverage container in commerce except in compliance with this section.

"(2) CIVIL PENALTY.—Any person that violates paragraph (1) shall be subject to a fine for each violation and for each day that the violation occurs in an amount of not more than \$70,117, as determined by the Administrator.

"(3) INJUNCTIVE RELIEF.—The Administrator may bring a civil action to enjoin the sale, distribution, or importation into the United States of a covered product or beverage sold in a beverage container in violation of this section.

"(4) STATE ENFORCEMENT.—The Administrator may permit a State to carry out enforcement under paragraph (2) or (3) if the Administrator determines that the State meets such requirements as the Administrator may establish.

"SEC. 12305. 'DO NOT FLUSH' LABELING.

"(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

"(1) COMBINED PRODUCT.—The term 'combined product' means 2 or more products sold in shared retail packaging, of which—

"(A) at least 1 of the products is a covered wipe product; and

"(B) at least 1 of the products is another consumer product intended to be used in combination with that covered wipe product.

"(2) COVERED ENTITY.—The term 'covered entity' means a manufacturer, wholesaler, supplier, or retailer that is responsible for the labeling or packaging of a covered wipe product that is sold, produced, or offered for sale in the United States.

"(3) COVERED WIPE PRODUCT.--

"(A) IN GENERAL.—The term 'covered wipe product' means a premoistened, nonwoven disposable wipe sold or offered for sale—

"(i) that is marketed as a baby wipe or diapering wipe; or

"(ii) that-

"(I) is composed entirely, or in part, of petrochemical-derived fibers; and

"(II) has significant potential to be flushed.

"(B) INCLUSIONS.—The term 'covered wipe product' includes—

"(i) antibacterial wipes and disinfecting wipes;

"(ii) wipes intended for general purpose cleaning or bathroom cleaning, including toilet cleaning and hard surface cleaning; and

"(iii) wipes intended for personal care use on the body, including hand sanitizing, makeup removal, feminine hygiene, adult hygiene (including incontinence hygiene), and body cleansing.

"(4) HIGH CONTRAST.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—The term 'high contrast' means, with respect to a symbol or label notice, that the symbol or label notice—

"(i) is light on a solid dark background or dark on a solid light background; and

"(ii) has a contrast percentage of at least 70 percent between that symbol or label notice and the background, using the formula described in subparagraph (B).

"(B) CONTRAST PERCENTAGE.—The contrast percentage referred to in subparagraph (A)(ii) is the product obtained by multiplying—

"(i) the quotient obtained by dividing-

"(I) the difference between-

"(aa) the light reflectance value of a lighter area; and

"(bb) the light reflectance value of a darker area; by

"(II) the light reflectance value of the lighter area described in subclause (I)(aa); and

"(ii) 100.

"(5) LABEL NOTICE.-The term 'label notice' means the written phrase 'Do Not Flush'.

(6) PRINCIPAL DISPLAY PANEL.—The term 'principal display panel' means the side of a product package—

"(A) that is most likely to be displayed, presented, or shown under customary conditions of display for retail sale; and

"(B)_(i) in the case of a cylindrical or near-cylindrical package, the surface area of which constitutes at least 40 percent of the product package, as measured by multiplying the height by the circumference of the package; or

"(ii) in the case of a flexible film package in which a rectangular prism or near-rectangular prism stack of wipes is housed within the film, the surface area of which is measured by multiplying the length by the width of the side of the package when the flexible packaging film is pressed flat against the stack of wipes on all sides of the stack.

"(7) SYMBOL.—The term 'symbol' means—

"(A) the 'Do Not Flush' symbol, as depicted in the Guidelines for Assessing the Flushability of Disposable Nonwoven Products (Edition 4; May 2018) published by the Association of the Nonwoven Fabrics Industry and the European Disposables And Nonwovens Association; or

"(B) a symbol otherwise identical to the symbol described in subparagraph (A) depicting an individual of another gender. "(b) REGULATIONS.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this subtitle, the Administrator shall issue regulations requiring covered entities to label covered wipe products clearly and conspicuously in accordance with this section.

"(c) REQUIREMENTS.—

"(1) CYLINDRICAL PACKAGING.—In issuing regulations under subsection (b), the Administrator shall require a covered wipe product sold in cylindrical or near-cylindrical packaging, and intended to dispense individual wipes, to have—

"(A) the symbol and label notice on the principal display panel in a location reasonably visible to the user each time a wipe is dispensed; or

"(B) the symbol on the principal display panel and the label notice, or a combination of the label notice and symbol, on a flip lid in a manner that covers at least 8 percent of the surface area of the flip lid.

"(2) FLEXIBLE FILM PACKAGING.—In issuing regulations under subsection (b), the Administrator shall require a covered wipe product sold in flexible film packaging, and intended to dispense individual wipes, to have—

"(A) the symbol on the principal display panel and, if the principal display panel is not on the dispensing side of the packaging, on the dispensing side panel; and

"(B) the label notice on the principal display panel or the dispensing side panel, in a prominent location reasonably visible to the user each time a wipe is dispensed.

"(3) RIGID PACKAGING.—In issuing regulations under subsection (b), the Administrator shall require a covered wipe product sold in a refillable tub or other rigid packaging that may be reused by a customer, and intended to dispense individual wipes, to have the symbol and label notice on the principal display panel in a prominent location reasonably visible to the user each time a wipe is dispensed.

"(4) PACKAGING NOT INTENDED TO DISPENSE INDIVIDUAL WIPES.—In issuing regulations under subsection (b), the Administrator shall require a covered wipe product sold in packaging that is not intended to dispense individual wipes to have the symbol and label notice on the principal display panel in a prominent location reasonably visible to the user of the covered wipe product.

"(5) BULK PACKAGING.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—In issuing regulations under subsection (b), the Administrator shall require a covered wipe product sold in bulk at retail to have labeling in compliance with those regulations on both the outer packaging visible at retail and the individual packaging contained within the outer packaging.

"(B) EXEMPTION.—The Administrator shall exempt from the requirements under subparagraph (A) the following:

"(i) Individually packaged covered wipe products that-

"(I) are contained within outer packaging;

"(II) are not intended to dispense individual wipes; and

"(III) have no retail labeling.

"(ii) Outer packaging that does not obscure the symbol and label notice on individually packaged covered wipe products contained within.

4/18/22, 1:40 PM

Text - H.R.2238 - 117th Congress (2021-2022): Break Free From Plastic Pollution Act of 2021 | Congress.gov | Library of Congress

"(6) PACKAGING OF COMBINED PRODUCTS.—

"(A) OUTER PACKAGING.—In issuing regulations under subsection (b), the Administrator shall exempt the outer packaging of a combined product from the requirements of those regulations.

"(B) PACKAGES LESS THAN 3 BY 3 INCHES.—In issuing regulations under subsection (b), the Administrator shall provide that, with respect to a covered wipe product in packaging smaller than 3 inches by 3 inches (such as an individually packaged wipe in tear-top packaging) and sold as part of a combined product, if a symbol and label notice are placed in a prominent location reasonably visible to the user of the covered wipe product, that covered wipe product shall be considered to be labeled clearly and conspicuously in accordance with those regulations.

"(d) Reasonable Visibility Of Symbol And Label Notice.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—In requiring the symbol and label notice under this section, the Administrator shall require that—

"(A) packaging seams or folds or other packaging design elements do not obscure the symbol or label notice;

"(B) the symbol and label notice are each equal in size to at least 2 percent of the surface area of the principal display panel; and

"(C) except as provided in paragraph (3), the symbol and label notice have high contrast with the immediate background of the packaging such that the symbol and label notice may be seen and read by an ordinary individual under customary conditions of purchase and use.

"(2) PROXIMITY OF SYMBOL AND LABEL NOTICE.—In requiring the symbol and label notice under this section, the Administrator may allow a symbol and label notice on a principal display panel to be placed adjacently or on separate areas of the principal display panel.

"(3) EXCEPTION.—Paragraph (1)(C) shall not apply to an embossed symbol or label notice on the flip lid of a covered wipe product sold in cylindrical or near-cylindrical packaging.

"(e) ADDITIONAL WORDS OR PHRASES.—In issuing regulations under subsection (b), the Administrator shall allow additional words or phrases on a covered wipe product that describe consequences associated with flushing or disposing of that covered wipe product, if those words or phrases are consistent with the purposes of this section.

"(f) REPRESENTATIONS OF FLUSHABILITY.—In issuing regulations under subsection (b), the Administrator shall prohibit, with respect to a covered wipe product, the representation or marketing of flushable attributes, performance, or efficacy benefits.

"(g) COMPLIANCE WITH OTHER REQUIREMENTS.—

"(1) FIFRA REQUIREMENTS.—In issuing regulations under subsection (b), the Administrator shall include, with respect to a covered wipe product that contains a pesticide required to be registered under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (<u>7 U.S.C. 136</u> et seq.), the following:

"(A) Instructions describing how such a covered wipe product may comply with the requirements of that Act and the regulations issued under subsection (b).

"(B) A requirement that, not later than 90 days after the date on which regulations are issued under subsection (b), a covered entity shall submit for approval by the Administrator a product label compliant with the instructions under subparagraph (A).

"(2) TYPE SIZE .---

"(A) FIFRA.—In issuing regulations under subsection (b), the Administrator shall require, in the case of a covered wipe product described in paragraph (1) that (by operation of requirements under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (<u>7 U.S.C. 136</u> et seq.) with respect to a pesticide in that covered wipe product) is required to display a warning, if the requirements of those regulations would result in a type size for a label notice on the principal display panel of that covered wipe product larger than that warning, that the type size for the label notice shall be equal to or greater than the type size required for the 'keep out of reach of children' statement under that Act.

"(B) FHSA.—In issuing regulations under subsection (b), the Administrator shall ensure that if a covered wipe product is subject to a labeling requirement under section 2(p)(1) of the Federal Hazardous Substances Act (<u>15 U.S.C. 1261(p)(1)</u>) and the requirements of those regulations would result in a type size for a label notice larger than first aid instructions required under that section, the type size for the label notice shall be equal to or greater than the type size required for those first aid instructions.

"(h) APPLICABILITY.—The Administrator shall provide that the regulations issued under subsection (b) shall apply with respect to covered wipe products manufactured on or after the date that is 90 days after the date on which those regulations are issued.

"(i) PENALTY.—The Administrator may impose fines for purposes of enforcing this section in accordance with the following:

"(1) A fine of not more than \$2,500 for each day that a violation of this section occurs.

"(2) In no event may the total amount of fines imposed for a single violation of this section exceed \$100,000.

"SEC. 12306. RECYCLING AND COMPOSTING RECEPTACLE LABELING.

"(a) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this section is to establish guidelines for a national standardized labeling system for the development of labels for recycling and composting receptacles that use a methodology that is consistent throughout the United States to

assist members of the public in properly recycling and composting.

"(b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

"(1) PUBLIC SPACE.—The term 'public space' means a business, an airport, a school, a stadium, a government office, a park, and any other public space, as determined by the Administrator.

"(2) RECYCLING OR COMPOSTING RECEPTACLE.—The term 'recycling or composting receptacle' means a recycling or composing bin, cart, or dumpster.

"(3) RESIDENTIAL RECYCLING AND COMPOSTING PROGRAM.—The term 'residential recycling and composting program' means a recycling and composting program that services single family dwellings, multifamily dwellings or facilities, or both.

"(c) GUIDELINES.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this subtitle, the Administrator shall develop and publish guidelines for a national standardized labeling system for an Organization to use to develop labels that—

"(1) use a national standardized methodology of colors, images, format, and terminology, including to address diverse ethnic populations;

"(2) shall be placed on recycling and composting receptacles in public spaces and the service area of the Organization in accordance with paragraphs (1)(D) and (2) of subsection (e); and

"(3) communicate to users of those recycling and composting receptacles—

"(A) the specific recyclables and compostables that the Organization accepts; and

"(B) the specific rules of sorting for that Organization.

"(d) DEVELOPMENT OF LABELS.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—Each Organization in the United States shall, in accordance with the guidelines published under subsection (c), use the national standardized labeling system to develop labels for use on recycling and composting receptacles in public spaces and the service area of the Organization to communicate to users of those recycling and composting receptacles—

"(A) the specific recyclables and compostables that the Organization accepts; and

"(B) the specific rules of sorting for that Organization.

"(2) SIMPLE AND DETAILED VERSIONS.—In developing labels under paragraph (1), an Organization shall develop—

"(A) a simple version of the label for use on recycling and composting receptacles used in public spaces, which shall list the basic recyclables and compostables that the Organization accepts; and

"(B) a detailed version of the label for use on recycling and composting receptacles used as part of a residential recycling and composting program, taking into consideration the complexity of the packaging and products disposed of by single family dwellings and multifamily dwellings and facilities.

"(e) DISTRIBUTION OF LABELS.—

"(1) SIMPLE VERSION.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—An Organization shall distribute the simple version of the label developed by that Organization under subsection (d)(2)(A) to each customer of that Organization that owns or operates a public space in the service area of the Organization.

"(B) QUANTITY.—The quantity of labels distributed to an owner or operator of a public space under subparagraph (A) shall be reasonably sufficient to ensure that a label may be placed on each recycling and composting receptacle in that public space.

"(C) ADDITIONAL LABELS.—If the quantity of labels distributed under subparagraph (B) is insufficient, an Organization shall make available to owners and operators described in subparagraph (A) additional labels to purchase or download.

"(D) REQUIREMENT OF OWNERS AND OPERATORS.—An owner or operator of a public space that receives labels under subparagraph (A) shall display the labels on the recycling and composting receptacles in that public space.

"(2) DETAILED VERSION.—An Organization or municipality, as applicable, that services a residential recycling and composting program in the area served by an Organization shall display a detailed standardized label developed by that Organization under subsection (d)(2)(B) on each recycling and composting receptacle used by the residential recycling and composting program.

"SEC. 12307. PROHIBITION ON CERTAIN EXPORTS OF WASTE.

"No person may export from the United States plastic waste, plastic parings, or scraps of plastic-

"(1) to a country that is not a member of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development;

"(2) without the prior informed consent of the relevant authorities in a receiving country that is a member of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, if those exports—

"(A) are not of a single, nonhalogenated plastic polymer;

"(B) are contaminated with greater than 0.5 percent of-

4/18/22, 1:40 PM

Text - H.R.2238 - 117th Congress (2021-2022): Break Free From Plastic Pollution Act of 2021 | Congress.gov | Library of Congress

"(i) other plastics; or

"(ii) other materials, including-

"(I) labels, adhesives, varnishes, waxes, inks, and paints; and

"(II) composite materials mixing plastics with nonplastic materials; or

"(C) are to be re-exported to a country that is not a member of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and

Development; or

"(3) that are contaminated with-

"(A) hazardous chemicals;

"(B) effective beginning on February 1, 2023, toxic substances; or

"(C) other substances, to the extent that the export becomes hazardous waste.

"PART IV—LOCAL GOVERNMENT EFFORTS

"SEC. 12401. PROTECTION OF LOCAL GOVERNMENTS.

"Nothing in this subtitle or <u>section 4056</u> of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 preempts any State or local law in effect on or after the date of enactment of this subtitle that—

"(1) requires the collection and recycling of recyclables in a greater quantity than required under section 12105(g);

"(2) prohibits the sale or distribution of products that are not prohibited under part II;

"(3) requires products to be made of a greater percentage of post-consumer recycled content than required under section 12302;

"(4) imposes a fee or other charge for products not subject to taxation under <u>section 4056</u> of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986; or

"(5) in any way exceeds the requirements of this subtitle.

"SEC. 12402. CLEAN COMMUNITIES PROGRAM.

"The Administrator shall establish a program, to be known as the 'Clean Communities Program', under which the Administrator shall leverage smart technology and social media to provide technical assistance to units of local government of States in cost-effectively—

"(1) identifying concentrated areas of pollution in that unit of local government; and

"(2) implementing source reduction solutions.

"PART V—REDUCTION OF OTHER SOURCES OF PLASTIC POLLUTION

"SEC. 12501. STUDY AND ACTION ON DERELICT FISHING GEAR.

"(a) REPORT.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this subtitle, the Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere (referred to in this section as the 'Under Secretary') shall submit to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation and the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate and the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives a report that includes—

"(1) an analysis of the scale of fishing gear losses by United States and foreign fisheries, including-

"(A) the variance in the quantity of gear lost among-

"(i) domestic and foreign fisheries;

- "(ii) types of fishing gear; and
- "(iii) methods of fishing;
- "(B) the means by which lost fishing gear is transported by ocean currents; and

"(C) common reasons that fishing gear is lost;

"(2) an evaluation of the ecological, human health, and maritime safety impacts of derelict fishing gear, and how those impacts vary across—

"(A) types of fishing gear;

"(B) materials used to construct fishing gear; and

"(C) geographic location;

"(3) recommendations on management measures-

"(A) to prevent fishing gear losses; and

"(B) to reduce the impacts of lost fishing gear;

"(4) an assessment of the cost of implementing management measures described in paragraph (3); and

"(5) an assessment of the impact of fishing gear loss attributable to foreign countries.

"(b) PUBLICATION.—On submission of the report under subsection (a), the Under Secretary shall publish in the Federal Register for public comment—

"(1) the report; and

"(2) a description of the actions the Under Secretary intends to take during the 1-year period after the date of publication to reduce litter from, and the environmental impacts of, commercial fishing gear.

"SEC. 12502. MANDATORY FILTRATION STANDARD FOR CLOTHES WASHERS.

"(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

"(1) BUILT-IN FILTRATION UNIT.—The term 'built-in filtration unit' means a required filtration unit that is built into a newly manufactured clothes washer.

"(2) COMMERCIAL CLOTHES WASHING BUSINESS.—The term 'commercial clothes washing business' means a business establishment containing 1 or more clothes washers, including self-service clothes cleaning establishments.

"(3) LOW-INCOME INDIVIDUAL.—The term 'low-income individual' has the meaning given the term in section 3 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3102).

"(4) REQUIRED FILTRATION UNIT.—The term 'required filtration unit' means a filtration unit that has a mesh size of not greater than 100 micrometers.

(5) RETROFIT FILTRATION UNIT.—The term 'retrofit filtration unit' means a required filtration unit that—

"(A) is an-line filtration unit; and

"(B) may be retrofit onto an existing clothes washer.

"(b) FILTRATION UNITS REQUIRED.—

(1) COMMERCIAL, INDUSTRIAL, AND GOVERNMENT-CONTRACTED CLOTHES WASHERS.-

"(A) IN GENERAL.-The Administrator shall ensure that-

"(i) not later than January 1, 2023, each government-contracted commercial clothes washer has a required filtration unit; and

"(ii) not later than January 1, 2024, each commercial clothes washer and industrial clothes washer has a required filtration unit.

"(B) NEW OR RETROFIT.-The requirement under subparagraph (A) may be met by-

"(i) the installation of a retrofit filtration unit on a previously purchased clothes washer; or

"(ii) the purchase of a new clothes washer that has a built-in filtration unit.

"(2) GENERAL REQUIREMENT.—The Administrator shall ensure that all new clothes washers, including residential clothes washers, sold in interstate commerce in the United States on and after January 1, 2025, have built-in filtration units.

"(c) GRANT, LOAN, AND FUNDING PROGRAMS.—

"(1) GOVERNMENT-CONTRACTED CLOTHES WASHERS.—The Administrator shall coordinate funding among other Federal agencies to ensure that the Federal Government meets the requirement under subsection (b)(1)(A)(i).

"(2) COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL CLOTHES WASHERS.—The Administrator may provide low-interest or forgivable loans to commercial clothes washing businesses to meet the requirement under subsection (b)(1)(A)(ii).

"(3) INDIVIDUALS.—The Administrator may provide grants, low-interest loans, or some combination of grants and lowinterest loans to low-income individuals to assist low-income individuals in replacing a clothes washer without a built-in filtration unit with a clothes washer that has a built-in filtration unit.

"(d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to the Administrator such sums as are necessary to carry out this section.

"SEC. 12503. STUDY AND ACTION ON MICROFIBER POLLUTION REDUCTION.

"(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this subtitle, the Administrator, in consultation with the heads of relevant Federal agencies, shall establish a competitive grant program to provide grants to eligible entities described in subsection (c) to carry out microfiber pollution reduction projects in accordance with this section.

"(b) OBJECTIVES.—To be eligible for a grant under subsection (a), a microfiber pollution reduction project shall accomplish 1 or more of the following objectives:

"(1) Improve industry and manufacturing best practices to reduce the generation of microfiber pollution-

"(A) during-

"(i) the production of textiles;

"(ii) the lifetime use of textiles; or

"(iii) the washing and cleaning of textiles; and

"(B) with a focus on increasing the use of recycled fibers.

"(2) Improve filtration technology for the removal of microfiber pollution from-

"(A) washing machines; or

"(B) wastewater treatment plants.

"(c) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—An entity that is eligible to receive a grant under subsection (a) is—

"(1) an institution of higher education;

"(2) a nonprofit organization;

"(3) a State, local, or Tribal government;

"(4) a for-profit organization;

"(5) a State agency responsible for managing wastewater treatment plants; or

"(6) a Federal agency that has statutory authority to receive transfers of funds.

"(d) PRIORITY.—In awarding grants under subsection (a), the Administrator shall give priority to a project that achieves more than 1 of the objectives described in subsection (b).

"(e) REPORT.—Not later than 2 years after the date on which the first grant is provided under subsection (a), the Administrator shall submit to Congress a report describing the results of the microfiber pollution reduction projects conducted under this section.

"(f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as are necessary to carry out this section.

"SEC. 12504. MICROPLASTICS PILOT PROGRAM.

"(a) DEFINITION OF MICROPLASTIC.—In this section, the term 'microplastic' means a plastic or plastic-coated particle that is less than 5 millimeters in any dimension.

"(b) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Administrator shall establish a pilot program (referred to in this section as the 'pilot program') to test the efficacy and cost effectiveness of tools, technologies, and techniques—

"(1) to remove microplastics from the environment; and

"(2) to prevent the release of microplastics into the environment.

"(c) REQUIREMENTS.—In carrying out the pilot program, the Administrator shall include the testing of—

"(1) natural infrastructure;

"(2) green infrastructure (as defined in section 502 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1362)); and

"(3) mechanical removal systems (such as pumps) and filtration technologies.

"(d) ELIGIBLE PILOT PROGRAM LOCATIONS.—In carrying out the pilot program, the Administrator may carry out projects located in—

"(1) stormwater systems;

"(2) wastewater treatment facilities;

"(3) drinking water systems;

"(4) ports, harbors, inland waterways, estuaries, and marine environments; and

"(5) roadways, highways, and other streets used for vehicular travel.

"(e) OUTREACH.—In determining selection criteria and projects to carry out under the pilot program, the Administrator shall conduct outreach to—

"(1) the Interagency Marine Debris Coordinating Committee established under section 5(a) of the Marine Debris Act (33 U.S.C. 1954(a)); and

"(2) stakeholders and experts in the applicable field, as determined by the Administrator.

"(f) Reports.—

"(1) INITIAL REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this subtitle, the Administrator shall submit to Congress a report describing the outreach conducted under subsection (e).

"(2) SUBSEQUENT REPORT.—Not later than 3 years after the date on which the Administrator establishes the pilot program, the Administrator shall submit to Congress a report describing the effectiveness of projects carried out under the pilot program.

"(g) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as are necessary to carry out this section.

"SEC. 12505. GRANT PROGRAM TO SUPPORT INNOVATION IN PACKAGING REDUCTION AND REUSE.

"(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this subtitle, the Administrator shall establish a competitive grant program (referred to in this section as the 'program') to provide grants to eligible entities described in subsection (c) to carry out pilot-scale packaging reduction or reuse projects in accordance with this section.

"(b) OBJECTIVES.—To be eligible for a grant under the program, a pilot-scale packaging reduction or reuse project shall evaluate the efficacy and cost-effectiveness of tools, technologies, and techniques for 1 or more of the following objectives:

"(1) Expanding reuse and refill programs for-

"(A) cleaning materials;

"(B) bulk food products; and

"(C) beverages.

- "(2) Assessing best practices for eliminating or reducing the use of plastic produce bags.
- "(3) Expanding consumer knowledge of reuse and refill programs.
- "(4) Otherwise eliminating or reducing the use of single-use plastic bags, as determined by the Administrator.

"(c) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—To be eligible to receive a grant under the program, an entity shall be—

- "(1) an institution of higher education;
- "(2) a nonprofit organization;
- "(3) a State, local, or Tribal government;
- "(4) a for-profit organization; or
- "(5) a public-private partnership.

"(d) PRIORITIES.-In awarding grants under the program, the Administrator shall-

"(1) give priority to a project that achieves more than 1 of the objectives described in subsection (b); and

"(2) ensure that a grant is provided to carry out a project in each region of the Environmental Protection Agency.

"(e) REPORT.—Not later than 3 years after the date on which the Administrator establishes the program, the Administrator shall submit to Congress a report describing the effectiveness of the projects carried out under the program.

"(f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated from the Reduction, Recycling, and Litter Cleanup Trust Fund established by <u>section 9512</u> of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 such sums as are necessary to carry out the pilot program.

"SEC. 12506. REPORT ON REUSE AND REFILL PRODUCT DELIVERY SYSTEMS.

"(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 3 years after the date of enactment of this subtitle, and every 5 years thereafter, the Administrator shall make publicly available a report on feasability and best practices relating to reuse and reusability within the following sectors:

"(1) Food service, including-

"(A) take out;

"(B) delivery of prepared meals; and

"(C) meal kits.

"(2) Consumer food and beverage products.

- "(3) Consumer cleaning products.
- "(4) Consumer personal care products.
- "(5) Transportation or shipping of wholesale and retail goods.

"(6) Other sectors, as identified by the Administrator.

"(b) OBJECTIVES.—The report under subsection (a) shall evaluate and summarize—

- "(1) types of reuse and refill product delivery systems that can be best used at different scales;
- "(2) job creation opportunities through the use or expansion of reuse and refill systems;
- "(3) economic costs and benefits for-

"(A) the businesses that deploy reuse and refill technologies; and

"(B) the parties responsible for waste collection and management; and

"(4) types of local, State, and Federal support needed to expand the use of reuse and refill systems.".

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents for the Solid Waste Disposal Act (Public Law 89–272; 79 Stat. 997) is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 11011 the following:

"Subtitle K-Producer Responsibility For Products And Packaging

"Sec. 12001. Definitions.

"PART I—PRODUCTS IN THE MARKETPLACE

<u>"Sec. 12101. Extended producer responsibility.</u>
<u>"Sec. 12102. Producer Responsibility Organizations.</u>
<u>"Sec. 12103. Covered product management.</u>
<u>"Sec. 12104. National beverage container program.</u>
<u>"Sec. 12105. Product Stewardship Plans.</u>
<u>"Sec. 12106. Outreach and education.</u>

"Sec. 12107. Reporting.

"PART II-REDUCTION OF SINGLE-USE PRODUCTS

"Sec. 12202. Reduction of other single-use products.

"Sec. 12203. Study and action on plastic tobacco filters and electronic cigarettes.

"PART III-RECYCLING AND COMPOSTING

"Sec. 12301. Recycling and composting collection.

"Sec. 12302. Requirements for the production of products containing recycled content.

"Sec. 12303. Designing for the environment.

"Sec. 12304. Product labeling.

"Sec. 12305. 'Do Not Flush' labeling.

"Sec. 12306. Recycling and composting receptacle labeling.

"Sec. 12307. Prohibition on certain exports of waste.

"PART IV—LOCAL GOVERNMENT EFFORTS

<u>"Sec. 12401. Protection of local governments.</u> <u>"Sec. 12402. Clean Communities Program.</u> <u>"PART V—REDUCTION OF OTHER SOURCES OF PLASTIC POLLUTION</u>

"Sec. 12501. Study and action on derelict fishing gear.

"Sec. 12502. Mandatory filtration standard for clothes washers.

"Sec. 12503. Study and action on microfiber pollution reduction.

"Sec. 12504. Microplastics pilot program.

"Sec. 12505. Grant program to support innovation in packaging reduction and reuse.

"Sec. 12506. Report on reuse and refill product delivery systems.".

SEC. 3. IMPOSITION OF TAX ON CARRYOUT BAGS.

(a) GENERAL RULE.—<u>Chapter 31</u> of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by inserting after subchapter C the following new subchapter:

"Subchapter D—Carryout Bags

"Sec. 4056. Imposition of tax.

"SEC. 4056. IMPOSITION OF TAX.

"(a) GENERAL RULE.—There is hereby imposed on any retail sale a tax on each carryout bag provided to a customer by an applicable entity.

"(b) AMOUNT OF TAX.—The amount of tax imposed by subsection (a) shall be \$0.10 per carryout bag.

"(c) LIABILITY FOR TAX.—The applicable entity shall be liable for the tax imposed by this section.

"(d) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this section—

"(1) APPLICABLE ENTITY.-

"(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subparagraph (B), the term 'applicable entity' means—

"(i) any restaurant (as defined in section 12001 of the Solid Waste Disposal Act), or

"(ii) any business which-

"(I) sells food, alcohol, or any other good or product to the public at retail, or

"(II) elects to comply with the requirements under this section.

"(B) EXCEPTION.-

"(i) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of this section, the term 'applicable entity' shall not include any entity described in subparagraph (A) if the State, or any local government or political subdivision thereof, in which such entity is located has been granted a waiver pursuant to clause (ii).

"(ii) WAIVER.—The Secretary shall prescribe rules providing for the waiver of application of this section with respect to any State, or any local government or political subdivision thereof, which has enacted a tax or fee on the provision of carryout bags which is similar to the tax imposed under this section.

"(2) CARRYOUT BAG.-

"(A) IN GENERAL.—The term 'carryout bag' means a bag of any material that is provided to a consumer at the point of sale to carry or cover purchases, merchandise, or other items.

"(B) EXCEPTIONS.—Such term shall not include any product described in section 12201(a)(2)(C) of the Solid Waste Disposal Act.

"(e) BAG TAX STATED SEPARATELY ON RECEIPT.—The tax imposed by subsection (a) shall be separately stated on the receipt of sale provided to the customer.

"(f) EXCEPTIONS.—The tax imposed under subsection (a) shall not apply to any carryout bag that is provided to a customer as part of a transaction in which the customer is purchasing any item using benefits received under the supplemental nutrition assistance program established under the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (<u>7 U.S.C. 2011</u> et seq.) or the supplemental nutrition program for women, infants, and children authorized under section 17 of the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (<u>42 U.S.C. 1786</u>).

"(g) PENALTIES.—

"(1) WRITTEN NOTIFICATION FOR FIRST VIOLATION.—If any applicable entity fails to collect the tax imposed under subsection (a) or satisfy the requirements under subsection (e), the Secretary shall provide such entity with written notification regarding the violation of the requirements under such subsections.

"(2) SUBSEQUENT VIOLATIONS.-

"(A) IN GENERAL.—If any applicable entity, subsequent to receiving a written notification described in paragraph (1), fails to collect the tax imposed under subsection (a) or satisfy the requirements under subsection (e), such entity shall pay a penalty in addition to the tax imposed under this section.

"(B) AMOUNT OF PENALTY.—For each violation during a calendar year, the amount of the penalty under subparagraph (A) shall be—

"(i) in the case of the first violation, \$250,

"(ii) in the case of the second violation, \$500, and

"(iii) in the case of the third violation or any subsequent violation, \$1,000.

"(C) LIMITATION.—In the case of any applicable entity with less than \$1,000,000 in total revenue for the year preceding the imposition of any penalty under this paragraph, any such penalty may not be imposed under this paragraph more than once during any 7-day period.

"(h) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section or any regulations promulgated under this section shall preempt, limit, or supersede, or be interpreted to preempt, limit, or supersede—

"(1) any law or regulation relating to any tax or fee on carryout bags which is imposed by a State or local government entity, or any political subdivision, agency, or instrumentality thereof, or

"(2) any additional fees imposed by any applicable entity on carryout bags provided to its customers.".

(b) CARRYOUT BAG CREDIT PROGRAM.—Subchapter B of chapter 65 of such Code is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

"SEC. 6431. CARRYOUT BAG CREDIT PROGRAM.

"(a) Allowance Of Credit.—If—

"(1) tax has been imposed under section 4056 on any carryout bag,

"(2) an applicable entity provides such bag to a customer in a point of sale transaction, and

"(3) such entity has kept and can produce records for purposes of this section and section 4056 that include—

"(A) the total number of carryout bags provided to customers for which the tax was imposed under section 4056(a) and the amounts passed through to customers for such bags pursuant to section 4056(e), and

"(B) the total number of bags for which a refund was provided to customers pursuant to a carryout bag credit program,

the Secretary shall pay (without interest) to such entity an amount equal to the applicable amount for each bag provided by such entity in connection with a point of sale transaction.

(b) APPLICABLE AMOUNT.—For purposes of subsection (a), the applicable amount is an amount equal to—

"(1) in the case of an applicable entity that has established a carryout bag credit program, \$0.10, and

"(2) in the case of an applicable entity that has not established a carryout bag credit program, \$0.04.

"(c) CARRYOUT BAG CREDIT PROGRAM.—For purposes of this section, the term 'carryout bag credit program' means a program established by an applicable entity which—

"(1) for each bag provided by the customer to package any items purchased from the applicable entity, such entity refunds such customer \$0.05 for each such bag from the total cost of their purchase,

"(2) separately states the amount of such refund on the receipt of sale provided to the customer, and

"(3) prominently advertises such program at each entrance and checkout register of the applicable entity.

"(d) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this section, the terms 'applicable entity' and 'carryout bag' have the same meanings given such terms under section 4056(d).".

(c) ESTABLISHMENT OF TRUST FUND.—Subchapter A of chapter 98 of such Code is amended by adding at the end the following:

"SEC. 9512. REDUCTION, RECYCLING, AND LITTER CLEANUP TRUST FUND.

"(a) CREATION OF TRUST FUND.—There is established in the Treasury of the United States a trust fund to be known as the 'Reduction, Recycling, and Litter Cleanup Trust Fund' (referred to in this section as the 'Trust Fund'), consisting of such amounts as may be appropriated or credited to the Trust Fund as provided in this section or section 9602(b).

(b) TRANSFERS TO TRUST FUND.—There is hereby appropriated to the Trust Fund amounts equivalent to-

"(1) the amounts received in the Treasury pursuant to section 4056; and

"(2) the amounts determined by the Secretary to be equivalent to the amounts of fees collected under section 12303(c) of the Solid Waste Disposal Act.

"(c) EXPENDITURES FROM TRUST FUND.—Amounts in the Trust Fund shall be available, as provided by appropriation Acts, for—

"(1) making payments under section 6431,

"(2) making grants for-

"(A) reusable carryout bags, and

"(B) recycling, reuse, and composting infrastructure and litter cleanup, and

"(3) carrying out the grant program to support innovation in packaging reduction and reuse under section 12505 of the Solid Waste Disposal Act.".

(d) STUDY.—Not later than the date which is 18 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct a study on the effectiveness of sections 4056, 6431, and 9512 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (as added by this Act) at reducing the use of carryout bags and encouraging the use of reusable bags. The report shall address—

(1) the use of plastic or paper single-use carryout bags during the period preceding the enactment of such sections,

(2) the effect of such sections on the citizens and residents of the United States, including-

(A) the percentage reduction in the use of plastic or paper single-use carryout bags as a result of the enactment of such sections,

(B) the opinion among citizens and residents of the United States regarding the effect of such sections, disaggregated by race and income level, and

(C) the amount of substitution between other types of plastic bags for single-use carryout bags,

(3) measures that the Comptroller General determines may increase the effectiveness of such sections, including the amount of tax imposed on each carryout bag, and

(4) any effects, both positive and negative, on United States businesses as a result of the enactment of such sections, including costs, storage space, and changes in paper bag usage.

The Comptroller General shall submit a report of such study to the Committee on Ways and Means of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Finance of the Senate.

(e) Clerical Amendments.—

(1) The table of subchapters for chapter 31 of such Code is amended by inserting after the item relating to subchapter C the following new item:

"Subchapter D. Carryout bags.".

(2) The table of sections for subchapter B of chapter 65 of such Code is amended by adding at the end the following new item:

"Sec. 6431. Carryout bag credit program.".

(3) The table of sections for subchapter A of chapter 98 of such Code is amended by adding at the end the following new item:

"Sec. 9512. Reduction, recycling, and litter cleanup trust fund.".

(f) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall take effect on January 1, 2023.

SEC. 4. CLEAN AIR, CLEAN WATER, AND ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term "Administrator" means the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency.

(2) COVERED FACILITY.—The term "covered facility" means—

(A) an industrial facility that transforms natural gas liquids into ethylene and propylene for later conversion into plastic polymers;

(B) a plastic polymerization or polymer production facility;

(C) an industrial facility that repolymerizes plastic polymers into chemical feedstocks for use in new products or as fuel; and

(D) an industrial facility that generates fuel or energy from plastic polymers through waste-to-fuel technology, an incinerator, or other similar technology, as determined by the Administrator.

(3) COVERED PRODUCTS.—The term "covered plastic" means—

(A) ethylene;

(B) propylene;

(C) polyethylene in any form (including pellets, resin, nurdle, powder, and flakes);

(D) polypropylene in any form (including pellets, resin, nurdle, powder, and flakes);

(E) polyvinyl chloride in any form (including pellets, resin, nurdle, powder, and flakes); or

(F) other plastic polymer raw materials in any form (including pellets, resin, nurdle, powder, and flakes).

(4) ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE.—The term "environmental justice" means the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all individuals, regardless of race, color, national origin, educational level, or income, with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies to ensure that—

(A) communities of color, indigenous communities, and low-income communities have access to public information and opportunities for meaningful public participation with respect to human health and environmental planning, regulations, and enforcement;

(B) no community of color, indigenous community, or low-income community is exposed to a disproportionate burden of the negative human health and environmental impacts of pollution or other environmental hazards; and

(C) the 17 principles described in the document entitled "The Principles of Environmental Justice", written and adopted at the First National People of Color Environmental Leadership Summit held on October 24 through 27, 1991, in Washington, DC, are upheld.

(5) FENCELINE MONITORING.—The term "fenceline monitoring" means continuous, real-time monitoring of ambient air quality around the entire perimeter of a facility.

(6) FRONTLINE COMMUNITY.---

(A) IN GENERAL.—The term "frontline community" means a community located near a covered facility that has experienced systemic socioeconomic disparities or other forms of injustice.

(B) INCLUSIONS.—The term "frontline community" includes a low-income community, a community that includes indigenous peoples, and a community of color.

(7) MATERIAL RECOVERY FACILITY.—The term "material recovery facility" means a solid waste management facility that processes materials for reuse or recycling.

(8) RENEWABLE ENERGY.—The term "renewable energy" means energy supplied by a project that uses wind, solar, geothermal, wave, current, tidal, or ocean thermal energy to generate electricity.

(9) SECRETARY.—The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of the Army, acting through the Chief of Engineers.

(10) SINGLE-USE PLASTIC.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The term "single-use plastic" means a plastic product or packaging that is routinely disposed of, recycled, or otherwise discarded after a single use.

(B) EXCLUSIONS.—The term "single-use plastic" does not include—

(i) medical food, supplements, devices, or other products determined by the Secretary of Health and Human Services to necessarily be made of plastic for the protection of public health; or

(ii) packaging that is-

(I) for any product described in clause (i); or

(II) used for the shipment of hazardous materials that is prohibited from being composed of used materials under section 178.509 or section 178.522 of title 49, Code of Federal Regulations (as in effect on the date of enactment of this Act).

(11) TEMPORARY PAUSE PERIOD.-The term "temporary pause period" means the period-

(A) beginning on the date of enactment of this Act; and

(B) ending on the date that is the first date on which all regulations required under subsections (d) and (e) are in effect.

(12) ZERO-EMISSIONS ENERGY.-

(A) IN GENERAL.—The term "zero-emissions energy" means renewable energy the production of which emits no greenhouse gases at the production source.

(B) EXCLUSIONS.—The term "zero-emissions energy" does not include any energy generated by—

(i) a waste-to-energy technology;

(ii) an incinerator; or

(iii) any other similar technology, as determined by the Administrator.

(b) TEMPORARY PAUSE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2), during the temporary pause period, notwithstanding any other provision of law

(A) the Administrator shall not issue a new permit for a covered facility under-

(i) the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7401 et seq.); or

(ii) the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (<u>33 U.S.C. 1251</u> et seq.);

(B) the Secretary shall not issue a new permit for a covered facility under section 404 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (<u>33 U.S.C. 1344</u>);

(C) the Administrator shall object in writing under subsections (b) and (c) of section 505 of the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. <u>7661d</u>) or section 402(d)(2) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. <u>1342(d)(2)</u>), as applicable, to any new permit issued to a covered facility by a State agency delegated authority under the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. <u>7401</u> et seq.) or the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. <u>1251</u> et seq.); and

(D) subject to subsection (g), the export of covered products is prohibited.

(2) EXCEPTION.—Paragraph (1) does not apply to a permit described in that paragraph for a facility that is—

(A) a material recovery facility; or

(B) a compost facility.

(c) STUDY.-

(1) IN GENERAL.-

(A) AGREEMENT.—The Administrator shall offer to enter into an agreement with the National Academy of Sciences and the National Institutes of Health to conduct a study of—

(i) the existing and planned expansion of the industry of the producers of covered products, including the entire supply chain, the extraction and refining of feedstocks, end uses, disposal fate, and lifecycle impacts of covered products;

(ii) the environmental justice and pollution impacts of covered facilities and the products of covered facilities;

(iii) the existing standard technologies and practices of covered facilities with respect to the discharge and emission of pollutants into the environment; and

(iv) the best available technologies and practices that reduce or eliminate the environmental justice and pollution impacts of covered facilities and the products of covered facilities.

(B) FAILURE TO ENTER AGREEMENT.—If the Administrator fails to enter into an agreement described in subparagraph (A), the Administrator shall conduct the study described in that subparagraph.

(2) REQUIREMENTS.—The study under paragraph (1) shall—

(A) consider—

(i) the direct, indirect, and cumulative environmental impacts of the industries of covered facilities to date; and

(ii) the impacts of the planned expansion of those industries, including local, regional, national, and international air, water, waste, climate change, public health, and environmental justice impacts of those industries; and

(B) recommend technologies, standards, and practices to remediate or eliminate the local, regional, national, and international air, water, waste, climate change, public health, and environmental justice impacts of covered facilities and the industries related to covered facilities.

(3) REPORT.—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall submit to Congress a report describing the results of the study under paragraph (1).

(d) CLEAN AIR.—

(1) TIMELY REVISION OF EMISSIONS STANDARDS.—Section 111(b)(1)(B) of the Clean Air Act (<u>42 U.S.C. 7411(b)(1)</u>) (<u>B</u>)) is amended by striking the fifth sentence.

(2) NATIONAL SOURCE PERFORMANCE STANDARDS IMPLEMENTATION IMPROVEMENTS.-

(A) ZERO-EMISSIONS ENERGY.—Not later than 3 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall promulgate a final rule requiring that—

(i) covered facilities that manufacture olefins, including ethylene and propylene, use only zero-emissions energy sources, except to the extent that waste gases are recycled; and

(ii) covered facilities that manufacture low-density polyethylene, linear low-density polyethylene, high-density polyethylene, styrene, vinyl chloride, or synthetic organic fibers use only zero-emissions energy sources, except to the extent that waste gases are recycled, unless the Administrator—

(I) determines that under certain conditions (such as during the commencement or shut down of production at a covered facility), expenditures of energy that are not from zero-emissions energy sources are required; and

(II) publishes the determination under subclause (I) and a proposed mixture of zero-emissions energy and non-zero-emissions energy for those conditions in a rulemaking.

(B) NEW SOURCE PERFORMANCE STANDARDS FOR CERTAIN FACILITIES.—Not later than 3 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall promulgate a final rule—

4/18/22, 1:40 PM

Text - H.R.2238 - 117th Congress (2021-2022): Break Free From Plastic Pollution Act of 2021 | Congress.gov | Library of Congress

(i) designating ethylene, propylene, polyethylene, and polypropylene production facilities as a category of stationary source under section 111(b)(1)(A) of the Clean Air Act (<u>42 U.S.C. 7411(b)(1)(A)</u>); and

(ii) establishing new source performance standards for the category of stationary source designated under clause (i) under section 111(f)(1) of the Clean Air Act (<u>42 U.S.C. 7411(f)(1)</u>).

(C) STORAGE VESSELS FOR COVERED PRODUCTS.—Not later than 3 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall promulgate a final rule modifying section 60.112b(a) of title 40, Code of Federal Regulations (as in effect on the date of enactment of this Act), to ensure that an owner or operator of a storage vessel containing liquid with a vapor pressure of equal to or more than 5 millimeters of mercury under actual storage conditions that is regulated under that section uses—

(i) an internal floating roof tank connected to a volatile organic compound control device; or

(ii) a fixed-roof tank connected to a volatile organic compound control device.

(D) FLARING.—Not later than 30 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall promulgate a final rule—

(i) modifying title 40, Code of Federal Regulations (as in effect on the date of enactment of this Act), to ensure that flaring, either at ground-level or elevated, shall only be permitted when necessary solely for safety reasons; and

(ii) modifying sections 60.112b(a)(3)(ii), 60.115b(d)(1), 60.482-10a(d), 60.662(b), 60.702(b), and 60.562-1(a)(1)(i) (C) of title 40, Code of Federal Regulations (as in effect on the date of enactment of this Act), to ensure that—

(I) references to flare standards under those sections refer to the flare standards established under clause (i); and (II) the flare standards under those sections are, without exception, continuously applied.

(E) SOCMI EQUIPMENT LEAKS.—Not later than 3 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall promulgate a final rule—

(i) modifying section 60.482–1a of title 40, Code of Federal Regulations (as in effect on the date of enactment of this Act), to ensure that owners and operators use process units and components with a leak-less or seal-less design;

(ii) modifying section 60.482–1a(f) of title 40, Code of Federal Regulations (as in effect on the date of enactment of this Act), to ensure that owners and operators use optical gas imaging monitoring pursuant to section 60.5397a of title 40, Code of Federal Regulations (as in effect on the date of enactment of this Act), on a quarterly basis, unless the owner or operator receives approval from the Administrator in writing to use Method 21 of the Environmental Protection Agency (as described in appendix A–7 of part 60 of title 40, Code of Federal Regulations (as in effect on the date of enactment of this Act)) with a repair threshold of 500 parts per million;

(iii) modifying 60.482–6a of title 40, Code of Federal Regulations (as in effect on the date of enactment of this Act), to ensure that the use of open-ended valves or lines is prohibited except if a showing is made that the use of an open-ended valve or line is necessary for safety reasons; and

(iv) modifying subpart VVa of part 60 of title 40, Code of Federal Regulations (as in effect on the date of enactment of this Act) to ensure that—

(I) the term "no detectable emissions" is defined to mean an instrument reading of less than 50 parts per million above background concentrations; and

(II) the term "leak" is defined to mean an instrument reading of greater than or equal to 50 parts per million above background concentrations.

(F) NATURAL-GAS FIRED STEAM BOILERS.—Not later than 3 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall promulgate a final rule revising subpart Db of part 60 of title 40, Code of Federal Regulations (as in effect on the date of enactment of this Act), to ensure that boilers or heaters located at an affected covered facility regulated under that subpart may only burn gaseous fuels, not solid fuels or liquid fuels.

(G) MONITORING.—Not later than 3 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall promulgate a final rule revising subparts DDD, NNN, RRR, and other relevant subparts of part 60 of title 40, Code of Federal Regulations (as in effect on the date of enactment of this Act)—

(i) to require continuous emissions monitoring of nitrogen oxides, sulfur dioxide, carbon monoxide, and filterable particulate matter for all combustion devices except for non-enclosed flares, including during startups, shutdowns, and malfunctions of the facilities regulated by those subparts;

(ii) to require-

(I) accurate and continuous recordkeeping when continuous monitoring is required under clause (i); and

(II) the records required under subclause (I) to be made available to the public; and

(iii) to require fenceline monitoring under section 63.658 of title 40, Code of Federal Regulations (as in effect on the date of enactment of this Act), for nitrogen oxides, sulfur dioxide, carbon monoxide, filterable and condensable particulate matter, and all other relevant hazardous air pollutants.

(3) NATIONAL EMISSION STANDARDS FOR HAZARDOUS AIR POLLUTANTS IMPLEMENTATION IMPROVEMENTS.—

(A) EQUIPMENT LEAKS OF BENZENE.—Not later than 3 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall promulgate a final rule modifying section 61.112 of title 40, Code of Federal Regulations (as in effect on the date of enactment of this Act) that strikes subsection (c).

(B) BENZENE WASTE OPERATIONS.—Not later than 3 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall promulgate a final rule modifying subpart FF of part 61 of title 40, Code of Federal Regulations (as in effect on the date of enactment of this Act), to ensure that—

(i) the term "no detectable emissions" is defined to mean an instrument reading of less than 50 parts per million above background concentrations; and

(ii) the term "leak" is defined to mean an instrument reading of greater than or equal to 50 parts per million above background concentrations.

(C) MAXIMUM ACHIEVABLE CONTROL TECHNOLOGY STANDARDS FOR COVERED FACILITIES.—Not later than 3 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall—

(i) promulgate a final rule modifying subpart YY of part 63 of title 40, Code of Federal Regulations (as in effect on the date of enactment of this Act), to ensure that—

(I) the generic maximum achievable control technology standards described in that subpart—

(aa) require no detectable emissions of hazardous air pollutants, unless the Administrator-

(AA) determines that the maximum degree of reduction in emissions of hazardous air pollutants achievable pursuant to section 112(d)(2) of the Clean Air Act (<u>42 U.S.C. 7412(d)(2)</u>) justifies higher limits; and

(BB) publishes the determination under subitem (AA) and the proposed higher limits in a rulemaking;

(bb) ensure an ample margin of safety to protect public health and prevent an adverse environmental effect; and

(cc) prevent adverse cumulative effects to fetal health, the health of children, and the health of vulnerable subpopulations; and

(II) the term "no detectable emissions", as required under subclause (I)(aa), is defined to mean an instrument reading of less than 50 parts per million above background concentrations; and

(ii) in promulgating the final rule required in clause (i)(I), consider-

(I) the effects and risks of exposure from multiple sources of hazardous air pollutants under the subpart modified under that clause; and

(II) the best available science, including science provided by the National Academies of Science.

(e) CLEAN WATER.-

(1) REVISED EFFLUENT LIMITATION GUIDELINES FOR THE ORGANIC CHEMICAL, PLASTICS, AND SYNTHETIC FIBERS INDUSTRIAL CATEGORY.—

(A) BAT AND NSPS STANDARDS FOR PLASTIC POLYMER PRODUCTION.—Not later than 3 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall promulgate a final rule—

(i) that ensures that the best available technology limitations described in part 414 of title 40, Code of Federal Regulations (as modified under clause (ii)) applies to covered facilities that produce fewer than 5,000,001 pounds of covered products per year;

(ii) modifying part 414 of title 40, Code of Federal Regulations (as in effect on the date of enactment of this Act), to ensure that the best available technology and new source performance standard requirements under that part reflect updated best available technology and best available demonstrated control technology for all pollutants discharged by covered facilities that produce covered products, including pollutants of concern that are not regulated on the date of enactment of this Act; and

(iii) modifying sections 414.91(b), 414.101(b), and 414.111(b) of title 40, Code of Federal Regulations (as in effect on the date of enactment of this Act) to ensure that—

(I) for new source performance standards for applicable covered facilities producing covered products, the maximum effluent limit for any 1 day and for any monthly average for the priority pollutants described in appendix A to part 423 of title 40, Code of Federal Regulations (as in effect on the date of enactment of this Act), is 0 milligrams per liter unless the Administrator—

(aa) determines that higher limits are justified using best available demonstrated control technology; and

(bb) publishes the determination under item (aa) and the proposed higher limits in a rulemaking; and

(II) for best available technology and new source performance standards, the maximum effluent limit for any 1 day and for any monthly average for total plastic pellets and other plastic material is 0 milligrams per liter.

4/18/22, 1:40 PM

Text - H.R.2238 - 117th Congress (2021-2022): Break Free From Plastic Pollution Act of 2021 | Congress.gov | Library of Congress

(B) EFFLUENT LIMITATIONS FOR WASTEWATER, SPILLS, AND RUNOFF FROM PLASTIC POLYMER PRODUCTION FACILITIES, PLASTIC MOLDING AND FORMING FACILITIES, AND OTHER POINT SOURCES ASSOCIATED WITH THE TRANSPORT AND PACKAGING OF PLASTIC PELLETS OR OTHER PRE-PRODUCTION PLASTIC MATERIALS.—Not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall promulgate a final rule to ensure that—

(i) the discharge of plastic pellets or other pre-production plastic materials (including discharge into wastewater and other runoff) from facilities regulated under part 414 or 463 of title 40, Code of Federal Regulations (as in effect on the date of enactment of this Act), is prohibited;

(ii) the discharge of plastic pellets or other pre-production plastic materials (including discharge into wastewater and other runoff) from a point source (as defined in section 502 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (<u>33 U.S.C. 1362</u>)) that makes, uses, packages, or transports those plastic pellets and other pre-production plastic materials is prohibited; and

(iii) the requirements under clauses (i) and (ii) are reflected in-

(I) all wastewater, stormwater, and other permits issued by the Administrator and State-delegated programs under section 402 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (<u>33 U.S.C. 1342</u>) to facilities and other point sources (as defined in section 502 of that Act (<u>33 U.S.C. 1362</u>)) that make, use, package, or transport plastic pellets or other pre-production plastic materials, as determined by the Administrator, in addition to other applicable limits and standards; and

(II) all standards of performance promulgated under section 312(p) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (<u>33 U.S.C. 1322(p)</u>) that are applicable to point sources (as defined in section 502 of that Act (<u>33 U.S.C. 1362</u>)) that make, use, package, or transport plastic pellets or other pre-production plastic materials, as determined by the Administrator.

(2) REVISED EFFLUENT LIMITATIONS GUIDELINES FOR ETHYLENE AND PROPYLENE PRODUCTION.-

(A) BAT AND NSPS STANDARDS.—Not later than 3 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall promulgate a final rule—

(i) modifying sections 419.23, 419.26, 419.33, and 419.36 of title 40, Code of Federal Regulations (as in effect on the date of enactment of this Act), to ensure that the best available technology and new source performance standards reflect updated best available technology and best available demonstrated control technology for all pollutants discharged by covered facilities producing ethylene or propylene; and

(ii) modifying sections 419.26(a) and 419.36(a) of title 40, Code of Federal Regulations (as in effect on the date of enactment of this Act), to ensure that the new source performance standards for any 1 day and for average of daily values for 30 consecutive days for the priority pollutants described in appendix A to part 423 of title 40, Code of Federal Regulations (as in effect on the date of enactment of this Act), is 0 milligrams per liter unless the Administrator—

(I) determines that higher limits are necessary based on the best available demonstrated control technology; and

(II) the Administrator publishes the determination under item (aa) and the proposed higher limits in a rulemaking.

(B) RUNOFF LIMITATIONS FOR ETHYLENE AND PROPYLENE PRODUCTION.—Not later than 3 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall promulgate a final rule modifying sections 419.26(e) and 419.36(e) of title 40, Code of Federal Regulations (as in effect on the date of enactment of this Act), to ensure that runoff limitations that reflect best available demonstrated control technology are included.

(f) ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE REQUIREMENTS FOR COVERED FACILITY PERMITS.-

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 3 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall promulgate a final rule to ensure that—

(A) any proposed permit to be issued by the Administrator or by a State agency delegated authority under the Clean Air Act (<u>42 U.S.C. 7401</u> et seq.) or the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (<u>33 U.S.C. 1251</u> et seq.) with respect to a covered facility is accompanied by an environmental justice assessment that—

(i) assesses the direct and cumulative economic, environmental, and public health impacts of the proposed permit on frontline communities; and

(ii) proposes changes or alterations to the proposed permit that would, to the maximum extent practicable, eliminate or mitigate the impacts described in clause (i);

(B) each proposed permit and environmental justice assessment described in subparagraph (A) is delivered to applicable frontline communities at the beginning of the public comment period for the proposed permit, which shall include notification

(i) through direct means;

(ii) through publications likely to be obtained by residents of the frontline community, including non-English language publications; and

(iii) in the form of a public hearing in the frontline community-

(I) for which public notice is provided—

(aa) not less than 60 days before the date on which the public hearing is to be held; and

(bb) using the means described in clauses (i) and (ii); and

(II) for which translation services (as defined in section 12001 of the Solid Waste Disposal Act) are provided; and

(III) that is accessible through live-streaming or alternative video streaming services for which translation services (as so defined) are provided;

(C) the Administrator or a State agency delegated authority under the Clean Air Act (<u>42 U.S.C. 7401</u> et seq.) or the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (<u>33 U.S.C. 1251</u> et seq.), as applicable, shall not approve a proposed permit described in subparagraph (A) unless—

(i) changes or alterations have been incorporated into the proposed permit that, to the maximum extent practicable, eliminate or mitigate the environmental justice impacts described in subparagraph (A)(i); and

(ii) the changes or alterations described in clause (i) have been developed with meaningful input from residents or representatives of the frontline community in which the covered facility to which the proposed permit would apply is located or seeks to locate;

(D) the Administrator or a State agency delegated authority under the Clean Air Act (<u>42 U.S.C. 7401</u> et seq.) or the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (<u>33 U.S.C. 1251</u> et seq.), as applicable, shall not approve a proposed permit described in subparagraph (A) during the 45-day period beginning on the date on which a public hearing described in subparagraph (B)(iii) is held for the proposed permit; and

(E) the approval of a proposed permit described in subparagraph (A) is conditioned on the covered facility providing comprehensive fenceline monitoring and response strategies that fully protect public health and safety and the environment in frontline communities.

(2) REQUIREMENT.—The Administrator shall develop the final rule required under paragraph (1) with input from—

(A) residents of frontline communities; and

(B) representatives of frontline communities.

(g) EXTENDED PRODUCER RESPONSIBILITY FOR INTERNATIONAL PLASTIC EXPORTS.—The temporary pause on the export of covered products under subsection (b)(4) shall remain in place until the Secretary of Commerce promulgates a final rule that—

(1) requires the tracking of covered products from sale to disposal;

(2) prohibits the export of covered products to purchasers that convert those plastics into single-use plastics or energy;

(3) requires the Secretary of Commerce, not less frequently than once every 2 years and in consultation with the Administrator and the Secretary of Health and Human Services, to publish a report measuring and evaluating the environmental and environmental justice impacts of exporting covered products from sale to disposal; and

(4) establishes enforceable mechanisms for sellers or purchasers of covered products to mitigate the environmental and environmental justice impacts of those covered products from sale to disposal.