

AN ACT

D.C. ACT 21-604

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

JANUARY 6, 2017

To prohibit a manufacturer of nonwoven disposable products for sale in the District from labeling nonwoven disposable products as safe to flush, safe for sewer systems, or safe for septic systems, unless the nonwoven disposable product is flushable, to require a manufacturer of a nonwoven disposable product for sale in the District that is not flushable to label the nonwoven disposable product to communicate that it should not be flushed, to authorize the Department of Energy and Environment to issue rules to implement the provisions of this act, to authorize the Mayor to issue civil fines and penalties for violations of this act, and to give the Attorney General for the District of Columbia the authority to seek injunctive relief for violations of this act.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this act may be cited as the "Nonwoven Disposable Products Act of 2016".

Sec. 2. Definitions.

For the purposes of this act, the term:

- (1) "Flushable" means a nonwoven disposable product that:
 - (A) Disperses in a short period of time after flushing in the low-force conditions of a sewer system;
 - (B) Is not buoyant; and
 - (C) Does not contain plastic or any other material that does not readily degrade in a range of natural environments.
- (2) "Label" means to represent by statement, word, picture, design, or emblem on the packaging of a nonwoven disposable product.
- (3) "Nonwoven disposable product" means a product constructed from nonwoven sheets, including moist toilet tissue or cloth, that is designed, marketed, or commonly used for personal hygiene purposes.

Sec. 3. Labeling of nonwoven disposable products.

(a) After January 1, 2018, a manufacturer of a nonwoven disposable product for sale in the District shall not label the nonwoven disposable product as safe to flush, safe for sewer systems, or safe for septic systems, unless the nonwoven disposable product is flushable.