



Legislation Text

File #: Res 0889-2015, **Version:** *

Preconsidered Res. No. 889

Resolution calling upon the State Legislature to pass and the Governor to sign A.5896/S.3932, known as the “Microbead-free Waters Act,” which would prohibit the sale of personal cosmetic products containing microbeads.

By Council Members Garodnick, Cabrera, Constantinides, Dromm, Gentile, Palma and Rosenthal

Whereas, Microbeads are manufactured particles of plastic that measure smaller than three millimeters in size are used in personal cosmetic products; and

Whereas, Microbeads are used as scrubbing agents and exfoliates in cosmetic products such as facial cleansers and toothpaste; and

Whereas, In normal use, microbeads are washed down drains and cannot be filtered out by wastewater treatment plants before entering marine environments in oceans and lakes; and

Whereas, According to a report by the Office of the Attorney General, microbeads, like plastics generally, are slow to biodegrade and can remain in the marine environment for centuries; and

Whereas, In marine environments microbeads accumulate and attract harmful chemical pollutants already present in the water, such as carcinogenic polychlorinated biphenyls, commonly known as PCBs; and

Whereas, In marine environments the small, buoyant and colorful microbeads are mistaken for food and consumed by fish and other wildlife, thereby harming marine life and contaminating the food chain; and

Whereas, In 2012, a research team sailed and surveyed Lake Superior, Lake Huron and Lake Erie to quantify the degree of plastic pollution in the Great Lakes; and

Whereas, The researchers found an average of 43,000 microbeads per square kilometer in the Great Lakes and deduced the source to be combined sewage overflows from proximate urban population centers; and

Whereas, There are many non-toxic, biodegradable and readily available alternatives to microbeads, such as apricot seeds, walnut husks, crushed cocoa beans and oatmeal; and

Whereas, Many major personal care companies, in recognition of the problem, have pledged to phase out microbeads; and

Whereas, Protection of the marine environment is of great interest to the well-being of New York; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Council of the City of New York, calls upon the State Legislature to pass and the Governor to sign A.5896/S.3932, known as the “Microbead-free Waters Act,” which would prohibit the sale of personal cosmetic products containing microbeads.

LUR
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