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**HOUSE BILL 2658**

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**State of Washington 65th Legislature 2018 Regular Session**

**By** Representatives McBride, Kagi, Peterson, Fitzgibbon, Doglio, Gregerson, Appleton, Jinkins, Ortiz-Self, Macri, Ryu, Pollet, Kloba, Goodman, Frame, and Stanford

AN ACT Relating to the use of perfluorinated chemicals in food packaging; amending RCW 70.95G.010 and 70.95G.040; and adding a new section to chapter 70.95G RCW.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

**Sec.**  RCW 70.95G.010 and 1991 c 319 s 107 are each amended to read as follows:

((~~Unless the context clearly requires otherwise,~~)) The definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

(1) "Package" means a container providing a means of marketing, protecting, or handling a product and shall include a unit package, an intermediate package, and a shipping container. "Package" also means and includes unsealed receptacles such as carrying cases, crates, cups, pails, rigid foil and other trays, wrappers and wrapping films, bags, and tubs.

(2) "Manufacturer" means a person, firm, association, partnership, government entity, organization, joint venture, or corporation that applies a package to a product for distribution or sale.

(3) "Packaging component" means an individual assembled part of a package such as, but not limited to, any interior or exterior blocking, bracing, cushioning, weatherproofing, exterior strapping, coatings, closures, inks, and labels.

(4) "Food package" means a package or packaging component that is intended for the marketing, protection, or handling of a product intended for food contact or used to store food and foodstuffs for sale.

(5) "Perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances" or "PFAS chemicals" means, for the purposes of food packaging, a class of fluorinated organic chemicals containing at least one fully fluorinated carbon atom.

(6) "Safer alternative" means an alternative substance or chemical, demonstrated by an alternatives assessment, that meets improved hazard and exposure considerations and can be practicably and economically substituted for the original chemical.

NEW SECTION. **Sec.**  A new section is added to chapter 70.95G RCW to read as follows:

(1) Beginning January 1, 2021, no person may manufacture, knowingly sell, offer for sale, distribute for sale, or distribute for use in this state food packaging to which PFAS chemicals have been intentionally added in any amount. This prohibition may not take effect until the department of ecology completes the following: (a) Identifies that a safer alternative is available; and (b) publishes findings, as required under subsection (3) of this section.

(2) To determine whether safer alternatives to PFAS chemicals exist, the department of ecology must conduct an alternatives assessment that:

(a) Evaluates less toxic chemicals and nonchemical alternatives to replace the use of a chemical;

(b) Follows the guidelines for alternatives assessments issued by the interstate chemicals clearinghouse; and

(c) Includes, at a minimum, an evaluation of chemical hazards, exposure, performance, cost, and availability.

(3) By January 1, 2020, the department of ecology must publish its findings in the Washington State Register on whether a safer alternative to PFAS chemicals in food packaging is available and submit a report with the findings to the appropriate committees of the legislature.

(4) The prohibition on the use of PFAS chemicals in food packaging:

(a) Becomes effective January 1, 2021, if the report required under subsection (3) of this section finds that a safer alternative is available;

(b) Does not take effect January 1, 2021, if the report required under subsection (3) of this section does not find that a safer alternative is available.

(5) If the department of ecology does not find that a safer alternative is available, beginning January 1, 2021, and each year following, the department of ecology must review and report on alternatives as described in subsection (2) of this section. The prohibition in this section takes effect one year after a report submitted to the legislature required under subsection (3) of this section finds that a safer alternative is available.

**Sec.**  RCW 70.95G.040 and 1991 c 319 s 110 are each amended to read as follows:

((~~By July 1, 1993,~~)) A certificate of compliance stating that a package or packaging component is in compliance with the requirements of this chapter shall be developed by its manufacturer. For food packaging, a manufacturer shall develop a compliance certificate within one year of the prohibition becoming effective as required under section 2 of this act. If compliance is achieved under the exemption or exemptions provided in RCW 70.95G.030 ((~~(3) or (4)~~)), the certificate shall state the specific basis upon which the exemption is claimed. The certificate of compliance shall be signed by an authorized official of the manufacturing company. The certificate of compliance shall be kept on file by the manufacturer for as long as the package or packaging component is in use, and for three years from the date of the last sale or distribution by the manufacturer. Certificates of compliance, or copies thereof, shall be furnished to the department of ecology upon request within sixty days. If manufacturers are required under any other state statute to provide a certificate of compliance, one certificate may be developed containing all required information.

If the manufacturer or supplier of the package or packaging component reformulates or creates a new package or packaging component, the manufacturer shall develop an amended or new certificate of compliance for the reformulated or new package or packaging component.

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