

Committee: Ecology, Environment, Climate Change, and Energy
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State-Wide Ban of Microbeads

WHEREAS, microbeads have been found to have a detrimental effect on the environment and wildlife; and

WHEREAS, microbeads are defined as a solid plastic particle made of plastics such as polyethylene, polypropylene, and polystyrene measuring less than five millimeters in size and are intended to be used to exfoliate or cleanse the human body or any part; and

WHEREAS, wastewater treatment facilities are not adequate to filter most microbeads due to their size; and

WHEREAS, eight hundred trillion plastic beads form sludge which forms into a runoff from sewage and filtering plants which consequentially pollute waterways in the US as well as the world's oceans; and

WHEREAS, microbeads can take over fifty years to decompose; and

WHEREAS, currently there is no published research on impact of microbeads in Missouri; and

WHEREAS, a national bill has been passed banning microbeads in cosmetic products beginning in 2018; and

WHEREAS, this bill only approaches "rinse-off cosmetic" products and does not include a total ban of use of microbeads; and

WHEREAS, Illinois, California, Michigan, New York, Ohio, Colorado, Indiana, Maine, and New Jersey have passed bills to begin state-wide bans for products containing microbeads with several more attempting bills regarding this issue; and

WHEREAS, Missouri does not have any laws regarding the use of microbeads; and

WHEREAS, Missouri waterways and habitats are being negatively impacted by the use of these products; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED that the Conservation Federation of Missouri assembled at the Capitol Plaza Hotel, Jefferson City, MO, this 20th day of March, 2016, requests the Missouri General Assembly enact a state-wide ban on domestically-sold microbead products within Missouri.