

## HB 15-1144 – Prohibition of Synthetic Plastic Microbeads in Personal Care Products

Sponsors: Rep. Primavera | Sen. Todd

House Committee: Public Health & Human Services

### Purpose:

- To prohibit the production, manufacture, or acceptance for sale of personal care products, including over-the-counter-drugs, that contain synthetic plastic microbeads.

### Background:

- Plastic microbeads are used in personal care cleansing products as an exfoliant. However, they do not degrade or decompose in wastewater treatment systems.
- They present a hazard to aquatic life because small fish mistake them for food. Plastic does not contain nutrients and it has effected the growth of aquatic life that has consumed microbeads. The toxic plastic can travel up the food chain from the small fish to larger fish to humans. Additional studies need to be done to see the full effect on aquatic life.
- Microbeads are too small to be sorted out by sewage treatment plants. Eventually micro beads make their way into streams and larger bodies of water.
- In Lake Ontario there are almost 1 million plastic particles per kilometer. Many other bodies of water in North America have the same problem.
- The industry supports this bill. Many companies are voluntarily changing to other viable alternatives.
- There are many biodegradable alternatives to plastic microbeads. Many industries are already using them in place of plastic ones.

### What this bill does:

- On a phased-in basis, this bill bans the manufacture and sale of products containing synthetic, plastic microbeads. No manufacture of personal care products with the beads is allowed after January 1, 2018; the sale of such products is not allowed after January 1, 2019. No manufacture of over-the-counter drugs (such as acne formulations) is allowed after January 1, 2019; the sale of such products is not allowed after January 1, 2020. This timetable allows manufacturers of these products time to develop new products that are safe, stable and meet regulatory requirements (i.e., Federal Food, Drug & Cosmetic Act).

### Support:

- The industry supports this bill. Organizations include: Johnson & Johnson; the Consumer Healthcare Products Association; and the Personal Care Products Association. Similar bills have passed in Illinois and New Jersey and are under consideration in other states.