



**Assemblymember Tasha Boerner, 77<sup>th</sup> District**  
**AB 823 PROTECTING CALIFORNIANS FROM TOXIC PLASTIC MICROBEADS**  
*(AS INTRODUCED ON FEBRUARY 19, 2025)*

---

## SUMMARY

---

AB 823 would ban the sale of toxic plastic microbeads in non-rinse off personal care products, cleaning products, and coatings. Microplastics have been linked to numerous health concerns, including cancer, dementia, infertility, and hormone disruption. AB 823 would ensure that Californians are using safe products and not polluting the state's waterways.

---

## BACKGROUND

---

Plastic microbeads are defined as five millimeters or smaller solid plastic particles that are added to products. These intentionally added plastic particles cause widespread environmental contamination and pose serious health risks to humans and wildlife. These toxic additions have become a pervasive pollutant that can be found nearly everywhere on earth, including in oceans, rivers, soil, the air, and in peoples' bodies. Microplastics absorb toxic chemicals and bioaccumulate in the food chain, endangering ecosystems and public health.

Microplastics have been found in lungs, the bloodstream, placental tissues, breast milk, and even the brain, raising serious health concerns, such as dementia, hormone disruption, infertility, and cancer affecting the lungs, blood, breasts, prostate, and ovaries.

While California banned plastic microbeads in rinse-off personal care products in 2015 (AB 888, Bloom, Chapter 594, Statutes of 2015), plastic microbeads are still being used in leave-on cosmetics, cleaning products, and coatings.

---

## EXISTING LAW

---

The Plastic Microbeads Nuisance Prevention Law prohibits the sale of or offering for promotional purposes personal care products containing plastic microbeads that are used to

exfoliate or cleanse in a rinse-off product, including, but not limited to, toothpaste. Existing law exempts a product containing less than one part per million (ppm) by weight of plastic microbeads from the prohibition.

The Plastic Microbeads Nuisance Prevention Law imposes a civil penalty not to exceed \$2,500 per day for each violation of the prohibition, as provided, and authorizes the Attorney General and local officials to enforce the prohibition.

---

## THIS BILL

---

AB 823 would ban the sale of non-rinse off personal care products and cleaning products containing plastic microbeads used as an abrasive to clean, exfoliate, or polish beginning January 1, 2027. AB 823 would also ban the sale of personal care products, cleaning products, and coatings containing any plastic microbeads beginning January 1, 2028.

---

## SUPPORT

---

- 5 Gyres Institute (Cosponsor)
- Breast Cancer Prevention Partners (Cosponsor)
- Californians Against Waste (Cosponsor)
- Clean Water Action (Cosponsor)
- East Bay Municipal Utility District
- Sustainable Rossmore
- Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts
- ReGen Monterey
- Zero Waste Sonoma
- Zero Waste Marin
- ChicoBag Company
- California Nurses for Environmental Health and Justice
- US Green Building Council California
- Courage California
- Ecology Center
- SoCal 350 Climate Action

- Friends Committee on Legislation of California
- Active San Gabriel Valley
- Surfrider Foundation
- Save Our Shores
- 350 Sacramento
- Azul
- Northern California Recycling Association
- Los Angeles Waterkeeper
- Salinas Valley Solid Waste Authority
- Oakland Recycles
- 7<sup>th</sup> Generation Advisors
- Algalita Marine Research and Education
- Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments
- OB-GYNs District IX
- Ban SUP
- Black Women for Wellness Action Project
- Breast Cancer Over Time
- California Black Health Network
- California Domestic Workers Coalition
- California Environmental Voters
- California Product Stewardship Council
- Catholic Charities of Stockton
- Center for Environmental Health
- Climate Action California
- Coastal Corridor Alliance
- Community Water Center
- Credo Beauty
- Defend Our Health
- Dr. Bronner's
- Erin Brokovich Foundation
- FACTS (Families Advocating for Chemicals and Toxics Safety)
- Friends of the Earth
- Green Science Policy Institute
- Innersense Organic Beauty
- Integrated Resource Management
- Intelligent Nutrients
- Just for Goods
- Just Transition Alliance
- Mamavation
- Monterey Bay Aquarium
- National Stewardship Action Council

- Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC)
- Naturepedic Organic Mattresses
- Pacoima Beautiful
- Plastic Free Future
- Plastic Pollution Coalition
- RethinkWaste
- San Francisco Bay Physicians for Social Responsibility
- San Francisco Baykeeper
- Save the Albatross Coalition
- Save the Bay
- Sierra Club California
- SkinOwl

---

## **OPPOSITION**

- Fragrance Creators Association (unless amended)
- Household & Commercial Products Association (unless amended)
- California Chamber of Commerce (unless amended)
- Personal Care Products Council (unless amended)
- California Retailers Association (unless amended)
- California Manufacturers & Technology Association (unless amended)
- Western Plant Health Association (unless amended)
- American Cleaning Institute (unless amended)
- American Chemistry Council (unless amended)

---

## **FOR MORE INFORMATION**

Christian Filbrun, Legislative Aide  
 (916) 319-2077  
[Christian.Filbrun@asm.ca.gov](mailto:Christian.Filbrun@asm.ca.gov)

---