

California state senator amends textile recycling bill

By Allison Prang

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California state Sen. Josh Newman has amended legislation calling for creation of what would be the nation's first state-level extended producer responsibility program for textiles.

Newman, a Democrat who introduced [SB707](#) in February 2023, [pulled it back in July after it had passed the state Senate](#). The bill's backers spent several months negotiating with stakeholders, including California's Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery, to align the measure with similar EPR efforts in the state.

"A lot of it relates to process and timelines and that's the result of the collaboration," Newman told POLITICO, referring to the changes. "We've been very deliberate in accepting input, especially from retailers [and] the apparel industry."

Thousands of tons of textiles [end up in landfills](#) every year in the U.S. Lawmakers in New York are also proposing creating a textile EPR program, but neither of the two bills introduced in the statehouse have made it through the legislative process.

Details: The California bill calls on producers to form and join a producer responsibility organization that is supposed to submit a plan to CalRecycle for creating a recycling program. The legislation would require CalRecycle to adopt regulations for the program by the beginning of 2028.

Apparel and textile producers would be responsible for paying into the PRO, said Jessica Matlock, a legislative aide in Newman's office.

The amended bill is structured more like other EPR bills in California based on feedback from CalRecycle, Matlock said. It stipulates that CalRecycle would need to approve a PRO by March 1, 2026, and that organization would be responsible for completing a needs assessment to determine how the program could be stood up. That assessment would be due by March 1, 2027.

CalRecycle did not respond to a request for comment.

The legislation now specifically states what type of apparel is covered and omits language allowing for non-listed items to be included. It also notes that the program would not apply to apparel or textile sellers with less than \$1 million in annual sales.

Reaction: Randi Marshall, H&M's head of U.S. government and public affairs, said the new version of the bill "is a lot better," though the company hasn't decided whether to formally support it. H&M had pushed for the inclusion of a needs assessment and favors having a single PRO instead of several.

The California Chamber of Commerce, which had previously said that a textile EPR program "could overwhelm CalRecycle and the businesses tasked with implementing such a program," didn't respond to a request for comment.

What's next: The bill likely won't be heard in the Assembly's Committee on Natural Resources until June, Matlock said. If it passes, it would move on to the appropriations committee and then be put to a full vote in the Assembly, she said. It would also need to go back through the Senate because it has been amended since it was passed last year.