

# **Nappies (Environmental Standards) Bill**

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**B I L L**

TO

Establish environmental standards for nappies; to make provision about the advertising and promotion of nappies with regard to those standards; and for connected purposes.

**B**E IT ENACTED by the Queen’s most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:—

**1 Environmental standards for nappies**

- (1) The Secretary of State must by regulations establish environmental standards for nappies.
- (2) The standards must define the characteristics required for a nappy to be traded, advertised or promoted as—
  - (a) “reusable”;
  - (b) “biodegradable”;
  - (c) “eco-friendly”;
  - (d) “environmentally friendly”;
  - (e) other such similar terms as may be defined in the standards.
- (3) The regulations may provide for nappies or the packaging in which they are contained to bear a mark signifying that they meet the environmental standards.
- (4) The trading, advertising or promotion of a nappy is an unfair commercial practice for the purposes of the Consumer Protection from Unfair Trading Regulations 2008 (S.I. 2008/1277) if—
  - (a) that nappy is described using a term used in subsections (2)(a) to (d) or a similar term defined in regulations under subsection (1) but does not meet the relevant standards, or
  - (b) that nappy or its packaging bears the mark in subsection (3) but does not meet the relevant standards.

## 2 Promotion of nappies that meet environmental standards

- (1) *The Secretary of State must by regulations establish a scheme to promote nappies that meet the environmental standards in section 1.*
- (2) The scheme must be a collaboration between public bodies and the nappy industry. 5
- (3) *The Secretary of State may by regulations make provision for a levy to be paid by persons who manufacture or trade in nappies for the purpose of meeting the operating expenses of the scheme.*
- (4) The scheme must provide public information on – 10
  - (a) the effects of disposable nappies on the environment;
  - (b) the financial advantages of reusable nappies for families and local authorities;
  - (c) other advantages of nappies that meet the standards in section 1.

## 3 Local authority reusable nappy schemes

- (1) The Secretary of State must prepare a report on steps that will be taken to encourage local authorities to operate schemes to – 15
  - (a) promote the use of reusable nappies, and
  - (b) reduce nappy waste.
- (2) In preparing that report, the Secretary of State must consult – 20
  - (a) operators of existing reusable nappy schemes,
  - (b) local authorities involved in those schemes,
  - (c) parents who have participated in such schemes,
  - (d) manufacturers of reusable nappies,
  - (e) the Scottish Ministers,
  - (f) the Welsh Ministers, and 25
  - (g) the Department of the Environment in Northern Ireland.
- (3) The report must be laid before Parliament within six months of this section coming into force.

## 4 Regulations

- (1) Regulations under this Act are to be made by statutory instrument. 30
- (2) Regulations under this Act may –
  - (a) make different provisions for different purposes;
  - (b) make supplementary, incidental, consequential, transitional, transitory and saving provision.
- (3) Before making regulations under sections 1 and 2 the Secretary of State must consult – 35
  - (a) the Scottish Ministers,
  - (b) the Welsh Ministers, and
  - (c) the Department of the Environment in Northern Ireland.
- (4) A statutory instrument containing regulations under sections 1 and 2(1) is subject to annulment in pursuance of a resolution of either House of Parliament. 40

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- (5) A statutory instrument containing regulations under section 2(3) may not be made unless a draft of the instrument has been laid before and approved by a resolution of each House of Parliament.

**5 Extent, commencement and short title**

- (1) This Act extends to England and Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. 5
- (2) Except for this section, this Act comes into force six months after the day it is passed.
- (3) This Act may be cited as the Nappies (Environmental Standards) Act 2019.

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To establish environmental standards for nappies; to make provision about the advertising and promotion of nappies with regard to those standards; and for connected purposes.

*Presented by David Linden  
supported by  
Patricia Gibson and  
John Mc Nally.*

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*Ordered, by The House of Commons,  
to be Printed, 4th December 2018.*

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