

[Committee Print]

[SHOWING THE TEXT OF H.R. 6832, AS FORWARDED BY THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, MANUFACTURING, AND TRADE ON SEPTEMBER 1, 2026]

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 6832

To amend the Federal Trade Commission Act to include requirements for recyclable, compostable, and reusable claims for packaging for a consumer product, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DECEMBER 17, 2025

Mr. WEBER of Texas introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

A BILL

To amend the Federal Trade Commission Act to include requirements for recyclable, compostable, and reusable claims for packaging for a consumer product, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Packaging and Claims
5 Knowledge Act of 2026” or the “PACK Act of 2026”.

1 **SEC. 2. REQUIREMENTS FOR RECYCLABLE, COMPOSTABLE,**
2 **AND REUSABLE CLAIMS FOR PACKAGING**
3 **FOR A CONSUMER PRODUCT.**

4 The Federal Trade Commission Act (15 U.S.C. 41
5 et seq.) is amended by inserting after section 26 the fol-
6 lowing:

7 **“SEC. 27. RECYCLABLE, COMPOSTABLE, AND REUSABLE**
8 **CLAIMS FOR PACKAGING FOR A CONSUMER**
9 **PRODUCT.**

10 “(a) COMPOSTABLE, RECYCLABLE, AND REUSABLE
11 CLAIMS.—

12 “(1) RECYCLABLE CLAIMS.—

13 “(A) DECEPTIVE CLAIMS PROHIBITED.—A
14 person may not claim that packaging for a con-
15 sumer product is recyclable if the packaging is
16 not recyclable.

17 “(B) QUALIFYING CLAIMS OF RECYCLING
18 REQUIRED.—Except as provided in subpara-
19 graph (C), a person shall clearly and promi-
20 nently qualify the description of a recyclable
21 claim by informing consumers about the avail-
22 ability of recycling programs and collection sites
23 where the item is sold—

24 “(i) by including the percentage of
25 consumers or communities that have access

1 to recycle the packaging for the consumer
2 product; or

3 “(ii) by including qualifications that
4 vary in strength depending on availability.

5 “(C) EXEMPTION FROM QUALIFIED
6 CLAIMS FOR AVAILABILITY.—A person is ex-
7 empt from the requirement of subparagraph
8 (B) if—

9 “(i) a recycling program or facility is
10 available to a substantial majority of con-
11 sumers or communities in which the con-
12 sumer product is sold; and

13 “(ii) the entire consumer product
14 package, excluding any minor incidental
15 component, is recyclable.

16 “(D) NOT RECYCLABLE.—The following
17 circumstances are not considered recyclable for
18 purposes of this paragraph:

19 “(i) A case in which any non-detach-
20 able component of the consumer product
21 packaging significantly limits the ability to
22 recycle the packaging of the consumer
23 product.

24 “(ii) A case in which packaging for a
25 consumer product that is made from recy-

1 clable material, but, because of the shape,
2 size, or some other attribute of the con-
3 sumer product packaging, is not accepted
4 in recycling programs.

5 “(2) COMPOSTABLE CLAIMS FOR CONSUMER
6 PRODUCT PACKAGING.—

7 “(A) DECEPTIVE CLAIMS PROHIBITED.—A
8 person may not make a claim that packaging
9 for a consumer product is compostable if the
10 packaging is not compostable.

11 “(B) EVIDENCE REQUIRED.—A person
12 that claims packaging for a consumer product
13 is compostable shall have competent and reli-
14 able scientific evidence that the packaging is
15 compostable.

16 “(C) QUALIFYING CLAIM OF
17 COMPOSTABILITY REQUIRED.—A person shall
18 clearly and prominently include a qualifying de-
19 scription on any claim that the packaging for a
20 consumer product is compostable to the extent
21 necessary to inform consumers about the ability
22 of the packaging to be composted if—

23 “(i) the consumer product packaging
24 cannot be composted safely or in a timely
25 manner in a home compost pile or device;

1 “(ii) the claim misleads reasonable
2 consumers about the environmental benefit
3 provided when the consumer product pack-
4 aging is disposed of in a landfill; or

5 “(iii) municipal or institutional
6 composting facilities are not available
7 where the item is sold to a substantial ma-
8 jority of consumers or communities.

9 “(3) REUSABLE CLAIMS FOR CONSUMER PROD-
10 UCT PACKAGING.—

11 “(A) DECEPTIVE CLAIMS PROHIBITED.—A
12 person may not claim that packaging for a con-
13 sumer product is reusable if the packaging is
14 not reusable.

15 “(B) MEANS FOR REUSE REQUIRED.—A
16 person may not make an unqualified reusable
17 claim for consumer product packaging unless
18 the person provides the means for reusing the
19 packaging through—

20 “(i) providing a system for the collec-
21 tion and reuse of the packaging; or

22 “(ii) offering for sale a product that
23 consumers can purchase to reuse the origi-
24 nal packaging.

1 “(4) THIRD-PARTY CERTIFICATION.—A person
2 may not make a claim that packaging for a con-
3 sumer product is compostable, recyclable, or reusable
4 unless an accredited third-party certification body
5 has certified such claim. With respect to a claim
6 that packaging for a consumer product is reusable,
7 this paragraph shall take effect 2 years after the
8 date of the enactment of this section.

9 “(5) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—This sub-
10 section may not be construed to—

11 “(A) apply to packaging that is not for a
12 consumer product; or

13 “(B) prohibit, restrict, or require third-
14 party certification of any statement, symbol, or
15 information required by the law of a foreign ju-
16 risdiction.

17 “(b) COMMISSION GUIDANCE.—

18 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years
19 after the date of the enactment of this section, the
20 Commission shall issue guidance for a person to be
21 in compliance with subsection (a) that includes the
22 following:

23 “(A) A consideration of different types of
24 consumer product packaging materials, includ-

1 ing paper, plastic, glass, metal, or a combina-
2 tion thereof.

3 “(B) A consideration of different colors,
4 shapes, and sizes of consumer product pack-
5 aging materials.

6 “(2) LIMITATIONS.—

7 “(A) NO CONFERRING OF RIGHTS OR
8 BINDING EFFECT.—Any guidance issued by the
9 Commission under paragraph (1) shall not con-
10 fer any rights on any person nor shall such
11 guidance operate to bind the Commission or
12 any person to the approach recommended in
13 such guidance.

14 “(B) BASIS OF ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS.—
15 In any enforcement action brought pursuant to
16 this section, the Commission shall allege a spe-
17 cific violation of a provision of this Act. The
18 Commission may not base an enforcement ac-
19 tion on, or execute a consent order based on,
20 practices that are alleged to be inconsistent
21 with any such guidance, unless the practices al-
22 legedly violate this section.

23 “(c) PERSONNEL AND FORMATION OF ADVISORY
24 COUNCIL.—In issuing guidance under subsection (b)(1)

1 and in administering the provisions of this section, the
2 Commission shall—

3 “(1) work with and consider input from the Ad-
4 ministrator to leverage the knowledge of the Envi-
5 ronmental Protection Agency on issues related to
6 waste and product lifecycle management, including
7 on issues relating to the use and management of
8 compostable, recyclable, and reusable consumer
9 product packaging; and

10 “(2) not later than 1 year after the date of the
11 enactment of this section, the Commission shall es-
12 tablish an advisory council that meets at least annu-
13 ally and is comprised of subject matter and technical
14 experts representing industry stakeholders, including
15 packaging material suppliers, manufacturers of con-
16 sumer products, and entities involved in the collec-
17 tion and management of discarded consumer product
18 packaging.

19 “(d) ENFORCEMENT BY COMMISSION.—

20 “(1) UNFAIR AND DECEPTIVE ACTS OR PRAC-
21 TICES.—A violation of this section shall be treated
22 as a violation of a rule defining an unfair or decep-
23 tive act or practice prescribed under section
24 18(a)(1)(B).

25 “(2) POWERS OF THE COMMISSION.—

1 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Commission shall
2 enforce this section in the same manner, by the
3 same means, and with the same jurisdiction,
4 powers, and duties as though all applicable
5 terms and provisions of this section were incor-
6 porated into and made a part of this section.

7 “(B) PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES.—Any
8 person that violates this section shall be subject
9 to the penalties, and entitled to the privileges
10 and immunities, provided in this Act.

11 “(C) COMPELLED CLAIMS.—The Commis-
12 sion may not compel, require, or otherwise man-
13 date a person to make a claim that consumer
14 product packaging is compostable, recyclable, or
15 reusable.

16 “(e) RELATIONSHIP TO STATE LAWS.—

17 “(1) IN GENERAL.—No State or political sub-
18 division of a State may prescribe, maintain, or en-
19 force any law, rule, regulation, requirement, stand-
20 ard or other provision having the force and effect of
21 law to the extent such law, rule, regulation, require-
22 ment, standard, or other provision regulates claims,
23 representations, labeling, or disclosures regarding
24 recyclability, reusability, or compostability of pack-
25 aging for a consumer product.

1 “(2) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in
2 this subsection may be construed to preempt the ap-
3 plicability of any law of a State with requirements
4 that are identical to those in this section.

5 “(3) PACKAGE; PACKAGING FOR A CONSUMER
6 PRODUCT DEFINED.—For the purposes of this sub-
7 section, the term ‘packaging’ or ‘packaging for a
8 consumer product’ includes any product, component,
9 or material that performs a packaging function, in-
10 cluding where such product, component, or material
11 is not distinct from or separable from the consumer
12 product.

13 “(f) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

14 “(1) ACCREDITATION.—The term ‘accredita-
15 tion’ means a determination by an accreditation
16 body that a third-party certification body meets the
17 following requirements:

18 “(A) Operates in accordance with generally
19 accepted principles for product certification, in-
20 cluding independence, impartiality, and the
21 avoidance of conflicts of interests.

22 “(B) Possesses the technical competence,
23 qualified personnel, and organizational capacity
24 to carry out certification activities.

1 “(C) Applies documented, transparent, and
2 scientifically valid methodologies in a consistent
3 and objective manner.

4 “(D) Maintains procedures to ensure the
5 separation of evaluation and certification deci-
6 sion-making functions.

7 “(E) Implements a management system
8 and controls that are sufficient to ensure the
9 consistency, reliability, and traceability of cer-
10 tification decisions.

11 “(F) Is qualified to evaluate and certify
12 compostable, recyclable, and reusable claims for
13 consumer product packaging in accordance with
14 the requirements of this section.

15 “(2) ACCREDITATION BODY.—The term ‘ac-
16 creditation body’ means a person that performs ac-
17 creditation of a third-party certification body and
18 does the following:

19 “(A) Evaluates and recognizes third-party
20 certification bodies based on established and
21 publicly available criteria.

22 “(B) Operates independently and free from
23 conflicts of interest.

1 “(C) Applies procedures designed to ensure
2 competence, consistency, and impartiality of
3 any certification body it accredits.

4 “(3) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term ‘Adminis-
5 trator’ means the Administrator of the Environ-
6 mental Protection Agency.

7 “(4) CLAIM.—The term ‘claim’—

8 “(A) means any statement or representa-
9 tion that is conveyed through any means, in-
10 cluding through writing, symbols, marks, graph-
11 ics, or electronic or digital links; and

12 “(B) does not include any instruction re-
13 garding how to recycle, compost, or reuse pack-
14 aging.

15 “(5) COMMISSION.—The term ‘Commission’
16 means the Federal Trade Commission.

17 “(6) COMPOSTABLE.—The term ‘compostable’
18 means the packaging is designed to be associated
19 with materials collected for composting that meets
20 ASTM or equivalent industrial compostability stand-
21 ards, and similarly appropriate standards for the
22 case of home compostability, and is capable of
23 breaking down into, or otherwise becoming part of,
24 stable and mature compost at an appropriate indus-

1 trial composting facility, or in a home compost pile
2 or device.

3 “(7) CONSUMER PRODUCT.—The term ‘con-
4 sumer product’ means any tangible product that
5 is—

6 “(A) sold, offered for sale, or distributed in
7 the United States (or intended to be sold, of-
8 fered for sale, or distributed in the United
9 States) to a person that is an individual con-
10 sumer and not a trust, firm, joint stock com-
11 pany, corporation (including a government cor-
12 poration), partnership, association, State, mu-
13 nicipality, commission, political subdivision of a
14 State, or any interstate body (including any de-
15 partment, agency, and instrumentality of the
16 United States); and

17 “(B) normally used or consumed by an in-
18 dividual consumer (including for personal, rec-
19 reational, educational, family, household, or
20 personal property maintenance or care pur-
21 poses) or ultimately used or consumed as a re-
22 sult of business-to-business distribution.

23 “(8) PACKAGING.—Except as otherwise pro-
24 vided, the term ‘packaging’ means any material that
25 is used for the containment, protection, handling,

1 delivery, and presentation of a tangible product that
2 is sold, offered for sale, or distributed in the United
3 States.

4 “(9) PACKAGING FUNCTION.—The term ‘pack-
5 aging function’ means the containment, protection,
6 handling, delivery, or presentation of a consumer
7 product, regardless of whether the material, compo-
8 nent, or item performing such function is separate
9 from, or integral to, the consumer product at the
10 point of sale or use.

11 “(10) PERSON.—The term ‘person’ means any
12 individual, partnership, corporation, trust, estate, co-
13 operative, association, or other entity.

14 “(11) RECYCLABLE.—The term ‘recyclable’
15 means that packaging can be collected, sorted, re-
16 processed, and ultimately reused in manufacturing
17 or to make another item.

18 “(12) REUSABLE.—The term ‘reusable’ means
19 the packaging is designed to accomplish within the
20 life cycle of the packaging more than one trip, rota-
21 tion, or use for the same purpose for which the
22 packaging was primarily designed.

23 “(13) SUBSTANTIAL MAJORITY.—The term
24 ‘substantial majority’ means 60 percent or more.

1 “(14) THIRD-PARTY CERTIFICATION BODY.—
2 The term ‘third-party certification body’ means a
3 person that is eligible to be considered for accredita-
4 tion to evaluate, develop, and certify compostable,
5 recyclable, and reusable claims for consumer product
6 packaging.”.