

**S.4746 (Hoylman-Sigal)/A.4333 (Kelles)**

**Purpose:** Requires fashion sellers to be accountable to standardized environmental and social due diligence policies, and establishes a fashion remediation fund.

**Statement of Support:** Apparel and footwear production is responsible for an estimated 4%-8.6% of global greenhouse gas emissions, and “fast fashion” is largely to blame.<sup>1</sup> In addition to contributing to climate pollution, the \$2.5 trillion industry contaminates water, uses toxic chemicals, contributes to deforestation, creates staggering amounts of waste, and exploits workers. The industry relies disproportionately on the labor of women, especially women of color, within production supply chains. Workers are underpaid, not provided with health and safety protections, and faced with higher risks of sexual violence in the workplace. There are no legally binding environmental standards placed on the apparel and footwear industries, enabling “fast fashion” retailers to operate without taking environmental and social sustainability into consideration whatsoever. Self-regulation has clearly failed, and as one of the largest economies in the world, it is time for New York State to hold these companies accountable.

The Fashion Sustainability and Social Accountability Act (Fashion Act) would create, for the first time, legally binding environmental and labor standards for the industry. Apparel and footwear retailers with global revenue of at least \$100 million would be required to map their supply chains from raw materials to production. After disclosing their supply chains, companies would then be required to address their impacts. Through the “Mandatory Due Diligence Framework,” the Fashion Act would require companies to set and achieve climate reductions in line with the Paris Agreement, work with their suppliers to effectively manage their chemical use, and measurably improve the lives of garment workers. It would require companies to be transparent about the wages they pay workers and mandate an increase in the amount of recyclable materials used. Essentially, the Mandatory Due Diligence Framework would require companies to identify, prevent, mitigate, account for, and remediate adverse impacts to human rights and the environment in their operations and supply chain. If a company fails to meet their targets, they face a fine of up to 2% of their annual revenues, as enforced by the state’s Attorney General. The funds raised from non-compliant companies would be used to benefit the workers and communities directly harmed by the violations.

This legislation would act as a catalyst for change, amplifying the urgent need for accountability in the fashion industry. As a first-of-its-kind law, The Fashion Act would truly make New York both a leader and a trendsetter in the world of sustainable fashion.

**The Sierra Club Atlantic Chapter Strongly Urges Your Support of S.4746/A.4333.**

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<sup>1</sup><https://www.mckinsey.com/-/media/mckinsey/industries/retail/our%20insights/fashion%20on%20climate/fashion-on-climate-full-report.pdf>