



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 679

January Session, 2025

Substitute House Bill No. 6229

House of Representatives, April 14, 2025

The Committee on Environment reported through REP. PARKER of the 101st Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING A REDUCTION OF SINGLE-USE PLASTICS AND POLYSTYRENE WASTE.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2027*) (a) For purposes of this
2 section:

3 (1) "Polystyrene" means any synthetic polymer material commonly
4 used to manufacture disposable foodware;

5 (2) "Single-use plastic" means any disposable plastic product
6 intended for one-time use, including plastic cutlery, straws, stirrers,
7 splash sticks and foodware accessories; and

8 (3) "Food vendor" means any facility licensed as a food vendor
9 pursuant to chapter 417 of the general statutes, including, but not
10 limited to, restaurants, food trucks, cafeterias, and other establishments
11 engaged in the sale or distribution of prepared food and beverages.

12 (b) On and after July 1, 2027, no state or municipal agency, vendor

13 with a government contract, school, business or food vendor shall sell,
14 use, purchase or provide:

15 (1) Any single-use foodware composed in whole or in part of
16 polystyrene;

17 (2) Any packaging product composed of polystyrene, including, but
18 not limited to, packaging peanuts; or

19 (3) Any single-use plastic straw, plastic stirrer, splash stick or
20 foodware accessory, except that a biodegradable or compostable single-
21 use plastic straw may be provided, upon request by any person,
22 including, but not limited to, any person with a disability, and shall be
23 made available at pharmacies and medical facilities.

24 (c) The Departments of Consumer Protection and Energy and
25 Environmental Protection shall develop and implement an enforcement
26 plan for the provisions of subsection (b) of this section that includes: (1)
27 Educational outreach efforts to provide guidance and resources to help
28 businesses and institutions transition to sustainable alternatives; (2) a
29 fair compliance timeline; and (3) a penalty for any first violation that
30 consists of a written warning and an attendant assistance period of time
31 to facilitate compliance with said subsection and, for any second or
32 subsequent violation, a penalty of not more than two hundred fifty
33 dollars.

34 (d) Nothing in this section shall prohibit any municipality from
35 adopting and enforcing ordinances that impose stricter restrictions on
36 single-use plastics and polystyrene than those set forth in this section.

37 (e) The provisions of this section shall not apply to any packaging
38 product composed of polystyrene or containing polystyrene loose fill
39 that: (1) Is used for prepackaged food that was filled and sealed prior to
40 receipt by a retail establishment, business or food vendor; (2) is used to
41 contain or store raw or frozen meat or seafood sold from a butcher case
42 or similar retail appliance; (3) is a cooler or ice chest, provided such
43 polystyrene is fully encased in another material; or (4) is a reusable

44 polystyrene for agricultural use.

45 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective January 1, 2027*) (a) On and after January 1,
46 2027, all state and municipal buildings, including schools that are
47 required to contain drinking fountains, shall: (1) Install and maintain an
48 equivalent number of bottle-filling stations to promote the use of
49 reusable water bottles when a capital project is undertaken or such
50 drinking fountains are replaced; and (2) ensure that such bottle-filling
51 stations remain operational and accessible to the public.

52 (b) The Department of Administrative Services shall develop
53 guidelines for compliance with the provisions of subsection (a) of this
54 section.

55 Sec. 3. (*Effective from passage*) (a) There is established a task force to
56 study the reduction in single-use plastics in the state. Such study shall
57 identify sustainable alternatives to such single-use plastics, develop
58 recommendations for improving processing infrastructure for such
59 single-use plastics, determine the best methods to support businesses,
60 municipalities and school systems in the adoption of circular economy
61 principles and determine reasonable time frames for the
62 implementation of additional reductions in single-use plastics in the
63 state.

64 (b) The task force shall consist of the following members:

65 (1) Two appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives,
66 one of whom has expertise in school nutrition programs and one of
67 whom has expertise in business interests in the state;

68 (2) Two appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate, one of
69 whom has expertise in restaurant operations in the state and one of
70 whom has expertise in hospital operations in the state;

71 (3) One appointed by the majority leader of the House of
72 Representatives who has expertise in municipal operations in the state;

73 (4) One appointed by the majority leader of the Senate who has

- 74 expertise in state agency operations;
- 75 (5) One appointed by the minority leader of the House of
76 Representatives;
- 77 (6) One appointed by the minority leader of the Senate; and
- 78 (7) The Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection, or
79 the commissioner's designee.
- 80 (c) Any member of the task force appointed under subdivision (1),
81 (2), (3), (4), (5) or (6) of subsection (b) of this section may be a member
82 of the General Assembly.
- 83 (d) All initial appointments to the task force shall be made not later
84 than thirty days after the effective date of this section. Any vacancy shall
85 be filled by the appointing authority.
- 86 (e) The speaker of the House of Representatives and the president pro
87 tempore of the Senate shall select the chairpersons of the task force from
88 among the members of the task force. Such chairpersons shall schedule
89 the first meeting of the task force, which shall be held not later than sixty
90 days after the effective date of this section.
- 91 (f) The administrative staff of the joint standing committee of the
92 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to the
93 environment shall serve as administrative staff of the task force.
- 94 (g) Not later than February 1, 2026, the task force shall submit a report
95 on its findings and recommendations to the joint standing committee of
96 the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to the
97 environment, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the
98 general statutes. The task force shall terminate on the date that it
99 submits such report or February 1, 2026, whichever is later.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

Section 1	July 1, 2027	New section
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Sec. 2	<i>January 1, 2027</i>	New section
Sec. 3	<i>from passage</i>	New section

ENV *Joint Favorable Subst.*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 26 \$	FY 27 \$
Department of Administrative Services; Various State Agencies	App Fund - Cost	None	None
Consumer Protection, Dept.	GF - Cost	None	None
State Comptroller - Fringe Benefits ¹	GF - Cost	None	None
Resources of the General Fund	GF - Potential Revenue Gain	None	None
Various State Agencies	All Funds - Potential Cost	None	See Below

Note: App Fund=All Appropriated Funds; GF=General Fund; All Funds=All Funds

Municipal Impact:

Municipalities	Effect	FY 26 \$	FY 27 \$
Local and Regional School Districts	STATE MANDATE ² - Cost	None	None
Various Municipalities	STATE MANDATE - Cost	None	See Below

Explanation

The bill, which establishes a number of requirements and criteria with regard to single-use plastics and polysterene waste, results in the

¹The fringe benefit costs for most state employees are budgeted centrally in accounts administered by the Comptroller. The estimated active employee fringe benefit cost associated with most personnel changes is 40.71% of payroll in FY 26.

² State mandate is defined in Sec. 2-32b(2) of the Connecticut General Statutes, "state mandate" means any state initiated constitutional, statutory or executive action that requires a local government to establish, expand or modify its activities in such a way as to necessitate additional expenditures from local revenues.

following fiscal impacts:

Section 2 requires water fountains in state and municipal buildings to be replaced with water filling stations whenever such water fountains need to be replaced, or when capital projects are undertaken in those buildings. These requirements conform to current practice for certain state agencies, local and regional school districts, and municipalities. The requirements result in a cost to the extent state agencies, local and regional school districts, and municipalities, do not currently conform to these requirements beginning in FY 27. The cost of replacing a water fountain with a water filling station is between \$5,000 and \$10,000 per unit, which is \$1,000 to \$2,000 more than replacing the old fountain with a similar water fountain.

Section 3, which establishes a task force to study the reduction of single-use plastics in the state, does not result in a fiscal impact to the state or municipalities because the task force has the expertise to carry out these requirements.

The Out Years

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 28 \$	FY 29 \$	FY 30 \$
Department of Administrative Services; Various State Agencies	App Fund - Cost	1.3 million	1.3 million	1.3 million
Consumer Protection, Dept.	GF - Cost	101,195	101,195	101,195
State Comptroller - Fringe Benefits	GF - Cost	40,179	40,179	40,179
Resources of the General Fund	GF - Potential Revenue Gain	See Below	See Below	See Below
Various State Agencies	All Funds - Potential Cost	See Below	See Below	See Below

Note: App Fund=All Appropriated Funds; GF=General Fund; All Funds=All Funds

Municipal Impact:

Municipalities	Effect	FY 28 \$	FY 29 \$	FY 30 \$
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Local and Regional School Districts	STATE MANDATE - Cost	Potential Significant	Potential Significant	Potential Significant
Various Municipalities	STATE MANDATE - Cost	See Below	See Below	See Below

Section 1, effective July 1, 2027, bans polystyrene foodware and packaging products and single-use plastic straws, stirrers, and sticks by various entities including, state and municipal agencies, schools, vendors with government contracts.

The ban requires the state to renegotiate various food contracts to meet the new requirements resulting in a cost of \$1.3 million per year beginning in FY 28. The ban results in a potential cost to local and regional school districts starting in FY 28, to the extent school districts are not compliant with the requirements of the bill. School districts may have to renegotiate various contracts and may require additional equipment and staffing for dishwashing, or need to purchase disposable items that comply with the bill. For districts that do not currently comply with the bill's requirements, the costs may be significant. The ban may also result in a potential cost to municipalities to the extent they have to renegotiate contracts to meet these requirements.

In addition, **Section 1** requires the Department of Consumer Protection (DCP) and the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP)³ to regulate and enforce the provisions of the bill resulting in a cost to the state. To meet the requirements of the bill DCP would need to hire one state program manager for a salary and other expenses cost of \$101,195 in FY 28 and \$98,695 in FY 29 and FY 30, along with an annual associated fringe benefit cost of \$40,179. This employee is needed to conduct educational outreach, provide guidance and resources to help business and institutions transition to sustainable alternatives, and enforce the provisions of the bill.

³It is anticipated that DEEP can meet the requirements of the bill with existing resources.

The bill includes a \$250 penalty for second and subsequent violations resulting in a potential revenue gain to the state to the extent this occurs.

OLR Bill Analysis**sHB 6229*****AN ACT CONCERNING A REDUCTION OF SINGLE-USE PLASTICS
AND POLYSTYRENE WASTE.*****SUMMARY**

Beginning July 1, 2027, this bill generally bans the sale, use, purchase, and provision of certain polystyrene foodware and packaging products and single-use plastic straws, stirrers, and sticks by certain entities. The prohibition applies to businesses, state and municipal agencies, schools, vendors with government contracts, and licensed food vendors (including restaurants, food trucks, cafeterias, and other establishments selling or distributing prepared food and drinks). The bill requires pharmacies and medical facilities to make biodegradable or compostable single-use plastic straws available and allows other businesses and entities to provide these straws on request, including to someone with a disability.

Beginning January 1, 2027, the bill requires state and municipal buildings, including schools, required to contain drinking fountains to (1) install and maintain an equal number of bottle-filling stations when undertaking a capital project or replacing drinking fountains and (2) ensure the bottle-filling stations remain publicly accessible and functional. It requires the Department of Administrative Services to set compliance guidelines for these requirements.

Lastly, the bill creates a nine-member task force to study the reduction of single-use plastics in the state and requires it to report its findings and recommendations to the Environment Committee by February 1, 2026. The task force ends on that date or when it submits its report, whichever is later.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2027, except the refilling station provision

is effective January 1, 2027, and the task force provision is effective upon passage.

BAN ON CERTAIN POLYSTYRENE AND SINGLE-USE PLASTIC PRODUCTS

Applicable Products

Beginning July 1, 2027, the bill generally prohibits the businesses and government entities listed above from selling, using, buying, or providing the following products:

1. single-use foodware containing polystyrene (i.e. any synthetic polymer material commonly used to manufacture disposable foodware);
2. packaging products made of polystyrene (e.g., packing peanuts); and
3. single-use plastic straws, plastic stirrers, splash sticks, and foodware accessories.

Exception for Specified Packaging Products

The bill's prohibition does not apply to packaging products made of polystyrene or containing polystyrene loose fill that is:

1. for prepackaged food that was filled and sealed before the business received it;
2. for raw or frozen meat or seafood sold from a butcher case or similar retail appliance;
3. a cooler or ice chest, as long as the polystyrene is fully encased in another material; or
4. a reusable polystyrene for agricultural use.

Enforcement and Penalties

The Consumer Protection and Energy and Environmental Protection departments must develop and implement an enforcement plan for the

ban that includes (1) educational outreach to provide guidance and resources to businesses and institutions on transitioning to sustainable alternatives, (2) a fair compliance timeline, and (3) a tiered penalty system.

Under the bill, the penalty for first violations is a written warning and an “attendant assistance period” to comply. (The bill does not specify what constitutes an “attendant assistance period.”) Subsequent violations are subject to a penalty of up to \$250.

The bill states that it does not prohibit municipalities from enacting and enforcing stricter restrictions on polystyrene and single-use plastics (disposable plastic products intended for one-time use, including plastic cutlery, straws, stirrers, splash sticks, and foodware accessories).

SINGLE-USE PLASTICS REDUCTION TASK FORCE

Scope

Under the bill, the task force’s study must do the following:

1. identify sustainable alternatives to single-use plastics;
2. recommend ways to improve processing infrastructure for these products;
3. determine the best methods to support businesses, municipalities, and school systems in adopting circular economy principles; and
4. determine reasonable timeframes for implementing additional single-use plastic reduction requirements.

Task Force Membership and Administration

The task force consists of the DEEP commissioner, or her designee, and the following appointed members:

1. a school nutrition program expert and state business expert, both appointed by the House speaker;

2. a restaurant operations expert and hospital operations expert, both appointed by the Senate president pro tempore;
3. a municipal operations expert, appointed by the House majority leader;
4. a state agency operations expert, appointed by the Senate majority leader; and
5. two members appointed by the House and Senate minority leaders, respectively.

Legislatively appointed members may be state legislators. Appointing authorities must make all initial appointments within 30 days after the bill's passage and fill any vacancies. The House speaker and Senate president must select the task force's chairpersons from its members. The chairpersons must schedule the first meeting of the task force within 60 days of the bill's passage. The Environment Committee's administrative staff serves as that of the task force.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Environment Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 25 Nay 8 (03/24/2025)