



General Assembly

January Session, 2025

Committee Bill No. 6229

LCO No. 5334



Referred to Committee on ENVIRONMENT

Introduced by:
(ENV)

***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 January 1, 2026*) (a) For purposes of this
2 section:

3 (1) "Polystyrene" means any synthetic polymer material commonly
4 used to manufacture disposable food containers, beverage cups, trays,
5 packaging materials, and other single-use products;

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

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

13 (b) On and after January 1, 2026, no state or municipal agency, vendor
14 with a government contract, school, business or food vendor shall sell,

15 use, purchase or provide:

16 (1) Any food ware or beverage product composed in whole or in part
17 of polystyrene, including, but not limited to, takeout containers, trays
18 and cups;

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

21 (3) Any single-use plastic cutlery, straw, plastic stirrer, splash stick or
22 food ware accessory, except that a single-use plastic straw may be
23 provided, upon request, to persons with disabilities and shall be made
24 available at pharmacies and medical facilities.

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

34 (c) On or before January 1, 2027, and annually thereafter, the
35 Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, in accordance
36 with section 11-4a of the general statutes, shall submit a report to the
37 joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of
38 matters relating to the environment that evaluates: (1) The effectiveness
39 of single-use plastic and polystyrene reduction measures; (2) the
40 economic impact of such measures on businesses and consumers; (3) the
41 adoption and development of circular economy initiatives in the state;
42 and (4) additional recommendations to further reduce plastic waste and
43 improve sustainability efforts in the state.

44 (d) Nothing in this section shall prohibit any municipality from

45 adopting and enforcing ordinances that impose stricter restrictions on
46 single-use plastics and polystyrene than those set forth in this section.

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

53 (b) The Department of Energy and Environmental Protection shall
54 develop guidelines for compliance with the provisions of subsection (a)
55 of this section.

56 Sec. 3. (*Effective from passage*) Not later than December 31, 2026, the
57 Department of Energy and Environmental Protection shall conduct a
58 study and submit a report, in accordance with section 11-4a of the
59 general statutes, to the joint standing committee of the General
60 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to the environment
61 assessing strategies for implementing a circular economy in the state,
62 with a focus on: (1) Sustainable alternatives to single-use plastic
63 packaging and food service products, including compostable,
64 biodegradable and reusable options; (2) local and regional processing
65 infrastructure for recycling, composting and reusing materials to
66 support a closed-loop system; (3) the economic and environmental
67 benefits of transitioning to circular economy models in food service,
68 retail, and packaging sectors; (4) incentives, group purchasing contracts
69 or grant programs to support businesses, schools and municipal
70 agencies in adopting such sustainable alternatives; and (5) best practices
71 from other states and countries that have successfully implemented
72 circular economy principles to reduce waste and enhance resource
73 efficiency.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:
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Section 1	<i>January 1, 2026</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>January 1, 2027</i>	New section
Sec. 3	<i>from passage</i>	New section

Statement of Purpose:

To reduce the production of single-use plastics and polystyrene waste in the state.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]

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