



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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