



**New York State YMCA**  
**Youth And Government**

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**FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®**  
FOR HEALTHY LIVING  
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Committee Assignment: Senate 4

Bill #: S-12

1 **Sponsors:** Kirsten Gollhofer, Max Gollhofer, Liana Grosser, and Molly Showers

2

3 **An Act To**

4 Amend Environmental Conservation Law to add a new Title 30 under Article 27  
5 which mandates that food service and retail establishments discharge of used and  
6 unused food waste in more sustainable ways.

7

8 *The People of the State of New York, represented in the Senate and Assembly do enact as follows:*

9

10 **Purpose**

11 To mandate that food service and retail establishments discard any food in more  
12 sustainable ways including, but not limited to, giving wholesome food to legitimate  
13 charity organizations, composting, and donating for animal feed.

14

15 **Summary of Provisions**

16 Section 1: Definitions

17 Wholesome Food: food with good enough value to be eaten

18 Legitimate Charity Organizations: charities certified by state and/or federal  
19 government

20 Section 2

21 Environmental Conservation Laws

22 Article 27: Collection, Treatment, and Disposal of Refuse and Other Solid Waste

23 Title 28:

24 Food service and retail establishments must discard unused food in certified  
25 sustainable methods approved by the Department of Environmental Conservation  
26 which includes, but is not limited to, scrapping for animal feed, donating wholesome  
27 food to legitimate charity organizations, and composting.

28 Establishments that can not afford this method of discard may file an application for  
29 a 15 month waiver from the Department of Environmental Conservation, where the  
30 Commissioner would review and approve in necessary.

31

32 **Justification**

33 Food waste is an increasing, yet quiet, epidemic facing New York state, the country,  
34 and the world. According to the United States Department of Agriculture, an  
35 estimated 30-40% of the total food supply is wasted in the country. Research  
36 performed by the USDA over a span of eight years (ending in 2014) showed that  
37 Americans waste over 150,000 tons of food per day, roughly one pound per person.



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38 This has shown to have a major environmental impact; for example, research  
39 performed by ReFed, an organization whose goal is to mitigate food waste across  
40 America, showed that food waste consumes roughly 21% of fresh water, 19% of  
41 fertilizer, 21% of cropland, and 21% of landfills in America. The issue is that  
42 supermarkets, restaurants, and consumers are not doing anything to downsize this  
43 waste. Enacting this bill would put New York at the forefront of fighting the war on  
44 food waste, helping to reduce the negative effects on the environment.

45

46 **Fiscal Implications**

47 There will be minimal fiscal implications for this bill in terms of processing  
48 applications for waivers and certifying food service and retail establishments  
49 sustainable disposition of food.

50

51 **Effective Date**

52 Two years after passage.