



New York State YMCA
Youth And Government

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FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Committee Assignment: Senate Freedom 2

Bill #:SF-13

1 **Sponsors:** Helena Williams, Julia Morris, Angelo Galle

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3 **An Act To**

4 Amend Article 27, Section § 28 of the New York State Environmental Conservation
5 laws to ban the use of single use plastics and styrofoam containers.

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

9
10 **Purpose**

11 This bill is necessary to help combat pollution in the state of New York. This bill will
12 help combat pollution in the state by banning single use plastic and styrofoam
13 containers that don't decompose quickly and are leading causes of pollution.

14
15 **Summary of Provisions**

16 **Section 1: Definitions**

17 Single-use plastic utensil: Any spoon, fork, knife, straw, or other utensil used for
18 eating

19 that consists primarily of polypropylene or polystyrene.

20 Single-use styrofoam container: Any food or drink container that is made of
21 polystyrene foam.

22 **Section 2:**

23 1. No person required to collect tax shall distribute any plastic carryout bags,
24 styrofoam containers, or single-use plastic utensils to its customers unless such
25 bags are exempt bags as defined in subdivision one of section 27-2801 of this title.

26 2. No person required to collect tax shall prevent a person from using a bag of any
27 kind that they have brought for purposes of carrying goods.

28 3. Nothing in this section shall be deemed to exempt the provisions set forth in
29 title 27 of this article relating to at store recycling.

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31
32 **Justification**

33 Single-use styrofoam and plastic utensils do not biodegrade. Eventually, through
34 transferring to animal tissue, the toxic chemicals used to manufacture plastic and
35 styrofoam enter the human food chain. About 150 million tons of non-degradable
36 plastic is floating in our oceans, and if this continues, the amount of plastic floating
37 in our oceans is expected to triple within the next decade, according to the World
38 Economic Forum. All plastics and styrofoam are petrochemicals, which come from



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petroleum. Petrochemicals are known to cause developmental, hematological, renal, and immunological disorders according to the Green Dining Alliance. Single-use plastic utensils and styrofoam containers are hazardous substances to the environment, people, and animals.

Fiscal Implications

There will be minimal fiscal implications. Each institution will have to provide an alternative for the banned substances. That alternative might be more expensive.

Environmental Implications

Banning styrofoam and single-use plastic will decrease air pollution. Dioxins in styrofoam cause immune and hormonal problems. Chemicals, such as benzene and styrene, can leak into food and drinks. Small animals can consume styrofoam and die due to consuming the toxins that are in styrofoam.

Effective Date

April 22, 2021