



New York State YMCA Youth And Government

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FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Committee Assignment: Senate Freedom 3

Bill #:SF-22

Sponsors:

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An Act To

An act to amend Article 27 of the New York State Environmental Conservation Law by adding subsection 30 to ban the use of single use plastic products.

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

Purpose

To ban the purchase of certain single-use plastics by all agencies and departments, which are fully or partially funded by the state of New York.

Summary of Provisions

Section 1: Definitions

Single use plastics: Containers made from plastic which are intended for use only once before they are thrown away or recycled.

Corporation: a company or group of people authorized to act as a single entity (legally a person) and recognized as such in law.

Firm: A firm is a commercial enterprise, a company that buys and sells products and/or services to consumers with the aim of making a profit.

Limited Liability Company: A limited liability company (LLC) is a corporate structure in the United States whereby the owners are not personally liable for the company's debts or liabilities.

Medical Condition: A medical condition is a broad term that includes all diseases, lesions, and disorders.

Fully or Partially funded by the state of New York: Government funding refers to financial assistance received by non government entities in the form of federal, state, or local government grants, loans, loan guarantees, property, cooperative agreements, food commodities, direct appropriations, or other assistance.

Section 2: Summary of Provisions

1. No person, firm, partnership, association, limited liability company or corporation shall sell or offer for sale or provide to any person in the state any single-use plastic products.

2. This section shall not apply to:

(A) The purchase of plastic straws for a person requiring such straws due to a medical condition; and

(C) Single-use plastic medical equipment.

Justification

This bill would greatly decrease the mass production of single use plastics, which are a huge detriment to the environment, the oceans, and wildlife. This would put New York at the forefront of pollution reduction caused from single use plastic production. Single use plastic produced would be required to be recyclable, or compostable. Altogether, this would greatly reduce waste,



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and fossil fuels associated with single use plastics, targeting the manufacturers that are fully or partially funded by New York, rather than the consumer. Compostable plastic helps save water by allowing the soil to hold moisture and reduce water runoff. It benefits the environment by recycling organic resources while conserving landfill space. When single use plastics are thrown out, harmful chemicals and greenhouse gasses are released from rubbish in landfill sites they end up in. Recycling helps to reduce the pollution caused by waste.

Fiscal Implications

According to The World Economic Forum, reuse and recycle measures would actually reduce packaging costs by at least \$8 billion a year, savings that could potentially be passed onto consumers and also go towards efforts to save the environment.

Enviornmental Implications

This bill will have a large, and beneficial impact on the environment, allowing New York State wildlife to flourish. When plastics are intended for one time use, they are quickly discarded, which can easily hurt not only marine life in NYS, but also wildlife. By having all plastics produced become recyclable or compostable, the likelihood of its interference with wildlife will decrease. Also, less plastic will be produced, accounting for less harmful fossil fuels.

Effective Date

This bill will go into effect 1 year after passage, including a 6 month grace period for manufacturers.