

SENATE No. 436

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Brian A. Joyce

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the adoption of the accompanying bill:

An Act to create a working group to study recyclable alternatives to polystyrene.

PETITION OF:

NAME:

Brian A. Joyce

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

Norfolk, Bristol and Plymouth

SENATE No. 436

By Mr. Joyce, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 436) of Brian A. Joyce for legislation to create a working group to study recyclable alternatives to polystyrene. Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Eighty-Ninth General Court
(2015-2016)**

An Act to create a working group to study recyclable alternatives to polystyrene.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 SECTION 1. There is hereby established a working group to study recyclable
2 alternatives to polystyrene food and beverage containers. The working group shall report its
3 findings and conclusions to the general court and make recommendations regarding any
4 necessary legislative and regulatory changes which are suggested by those findings and
5 conclusions. The first meeting of the working group shall take place within 60 days after the
6 effective date of this act.

7 SECTION 2. The working group shall consist of 8 members: the chairpersons of the
8 Joint Committee on the Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture, or their designees,
9 who shall serve as the co-chairs of the working group; the secretary of the Department of
10 Environmental Protection, or that person’s designee; the secretary of the Department of Housing
11 and Economic Development, or that person’s designee, the undersecretary of the Massachusetts
12 Department of Consumer Affairs and Business Regulation, or that person’s designee; the

13 president of the New England Franchise Association, or that person's designee; the president of
14 the American Franchise Association, or that person's designee; and the President of the
15 Environmental League of Massachusetts, or that person's designee.

16 SECTION 3. In carrying out its charge, the working group shall examine, report on, and
17 make recommendations regarding existing and potential future recyclable alternatives to
18 polystyrene packaging for food and beverage containers, the environmental impact of such
19 alternatives, the economic feasibility of such alternatives, and the economic impact of a ban on
20 the use of polystyrene in food and beverage containers as of January 1, 2019 and make formal
21 legislative and regulatory recommendations regarding economically feasible mechanisms for
22 eliminating the use of polystyrene as a food and beverage container in favor of recyclable,
23 environmentally friendly alternatives.

24 SECTION 4. The working group shall solicit advice from such persons and entities as it
25 deems necessary, including industry experts, franchisees, affected business owners,
26 environmental experts, environmental advocacy groups, engineers, franchisors, and business
27 leaders.

28 SECTION 5. The working group shall file a report containing its recommendations,
29 including legislation and regulations necessary to carry out its recommendations, with the joint
30 committee on the Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture and the clerks of the house
31 and senate not later than 9 months following the first meeting of the working group.