

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 739****The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

***Denise Provost***

*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 relative to plastic bag reduction.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Denise Provost</i>	<i>27th Middlesex</i>	<i>1/12/2015</i>
<i>Peter V. Kocot</i>	<i>1st Hampshire</i>	<i>9/3/2019</i>
<i>Chris Walsh</i>	<i>6th Middlesex</i>	<i>9/3/2019</i>
<i>Ruth B. Balser</i>	<i>12th Middlesex</i>	<i>9/3/2019</i>
<i>David M. Rogers</i>	<i>24th Middlesex</i>	<i>9/3/2019</i>
<i>Carmine L. Gentile</i>	<i>13th Middlesex</i>	<i>9/3/2019</i>
<i>Ellen Story</i>	<i>3rd Hampshire</i>	<i>9/3/2019</i>
<i>Mary S. Keefe</i>	<i>15th Worcester</i>	<i>9/3/2019</i>
<i>Marjorie C. Decker</i>	<i>25th Middlesex</i>	<i>9/3/2019</i>
<i>Alice Hanlon Peisch</i>	<i>14th Norfolk</i>	<i>9/3/2019</i>
<i>Tom Sannicandro</i>	<i>7th Middlesex</i>	<i>1/30/2015</i>
<i>Kay Khan</i>	<i>11th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/4/2015</i>
<i>Thomas M. Stanley</i>	<i>9th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/4/2015</i>
<i>Timothy J. Toomey, Jr.</i>	<i>26th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/2/2015</i>
<i>Paul R. Heroux</i>	<i>2nd Bristol</i>	<i>2/4/2015</i>
<i>Patricia D. Jehlen</i>	<i>Second Middlesex</i>	<i>9/3/2019</i>
<i>James B. Eldridge</i>	<i>Middlesex and Worcester</i>	<i>9/3/2019</i>
<i>Gailanne M. Cariddi</i>	<i>1st Berkshire</i>	<i>9/3/2019</i>

# HOUSE . . . . . No. 739

---

By Ms. Provost of Somerville, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 739) of Denise Provost and others for legislation to reduce plastic bag use through regulations and incentives. Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture.

---

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION  
SEE HOUSE, NO. 787 OF 2013-2014.]

## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act relative to plastic bag reduction.

*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. Chapter 21, as appearing in the Official Edition, is hereby amended by  
2 inserting after section 21N the following chapter:-

3           CHAPTER 210 PLASTIC BAG REDUCTION ACT

4           SECTION 2. DEFINITIONS

5           As used in this chapter, the following words shall, unless the context clearly requires  
6 otherwise, have the following meanings:

7           “Secretary”, the Secretary of the Executive Office of Environmental Affairs

“Plastic carryout bag”: a bag made predominantly of any type of plastic, which is provided to a customer at the point of sale in a retail establishment, but does not include reusable bags, produce bags, or product bags, as defined herein.

“Produce bag” or “product bag” means any bag without handles used exclusively to carry produce, meats, or other food items to the point of sale inside a store or to prevent such food items from coming into direct contact with other purchased items.

“Recyclable” means material that can be sorted, cleansed, and reconstituted using available recycling collection programs for the purpose of using the material in the manufacture of a new product. “Recycling” does not include burning, incinerating, or otherwise thermally destroying solid waste.

“Recyclable paper carryout bag”: a paper bag that meets all of the following requirements: (1) is one hundred percent (100%) recyclable overall and contains a minimum of eighty percent (80%) recycled material; (2) displays the word “Recyclable” in a highly visible manner on the outside of the bag. (2) has printed on the bag the name of the manufacturer, the location (country) where the bag was manufactured, and the percentage of recycled material used.

“Reusable bag”: a bag with handles that is designed and manufactured for multiple reuses and meets all of the following requirements: (1) has a minimum lifetime of 100 uses, which means the capability of carrying a minimum of 22 pounds 100 times over a distance of at least 175 feet; (2) has a minimum volume of 15 liters; (3) is machine washable or is made from a material that can be cleaned or disinfected; (4) does not contain lead, cadmium, or any other

29 heavy metal in toxic amounts; (5) if made of plastic, is a minimum of at least 3.0 mils  
30 (.0762mm) thick.

31 “Retail establishment”, any retail store that is located in the Commonwealth of  
32 Massachusetts

### 33 SECTION 3. RESTRICTIONS AND EXCLUSIONS

34 (a) No retail establishment located in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts may  
35 distribute plastic carryout bags as defined herein.

36 (b) This prohibition applies to bags provided for the purpose of carrying away goods  
37 from the point of sale and does not apply to produce bags or product bags.

38 (c) If a retail establishment provides carryout bags at the point of sale, said bags must be  
39 Recyclable Paper Carryout Bags as defined herein.

40 (d) Nothing in this section shall be read to preclude any establishment from making  
41 Reusable Bags, as defined herein, available to customers by sale or otherwise.

42 (e) Nothing in this section shall be read to preclude any establishment from providing  
43 produce bags or product bag, as defined herein, to their customers.

44 (f) Nothing in this chapter shall prohibit customers from using bags of any type that they  
45 bring to the store themselves or from carrying away goods that are not placed in a bag, in lieu of  
46 using bags provided by the store.

47 (g) Nothing in this section shall prohibit retail establishments from charging a fee for  
48 reusable bags or recyclable paper carryout bags as defined herein.

49           SECTION 4. EFFECTIVE DATE, ENFORCEMENT

50           (a) All of the requirements set forth in this act shall take effect on April 22, 2015.

51           (b) The enforcement and penalty provisions of section 16 of chapter 21A shall apply to  
52 this chapter.

53           (c) The Secretary shall promulgate rules and regulations to implement this chapter.