

**SENATE . . . . . No. 434**

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**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 prohibiting plastic carryout bags by 2019.**

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
<i>Brian A. Joyce</i>	<i>Norfolk, Bristol and Plymouth</i>
<i>William N. Brownsberger</i>	<i>Second Suffolk and Middlesex</i>
<i>Cynthia S. Creem</i>	<i>First Middlesex and Norfolk</i>

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By Mr. Joyce, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 434) of Brian A. Joyce, William N. Brownsberger and Cynthia S. Creem for legislation to prohibit polystyrene packaging by 2017. Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture.

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[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION  
SEE SENATE, NO. 369 OF 2013-2014.]

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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

An Act prohibiting plastic carryout bags by 2019.

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

1           The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection shall promulgate regulations  
2 to prohibit the use of plastic carryout bags by the year 2019. For purposes of this section,  
3 “plastic carryout bag” means a plastic carryout bag provided by a store to a customer at the point  
4 of sale for the purpose of carrying purchased items from the store. “Plastic carryout bag” shall  
5 not include plastic bags in which loose produce is placed by the customer to deliver such items to  
6 the point of sale area of a store. This section shall not prohibit compostable plastic carryout  
7 bags, which conform to the current ASTM-Standard Specifications for compostability and is  
8 certified and labeled as meeting the ASTM-Standard by a recognized verification entity such as  
9 the Biodegradable Product Institute.

10           The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection shall promulgate regulations  
11 to enforce this section.