

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 2121**

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

***Lori A. Ehrlich and James B. Eldridge***

*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 reducing plastic bag pollution.**

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
<i>Lori A. Ehrlich</i>	<i>8th Essex</i>
<i>James B. Eldridge</i>	<i>Middlesex and Worcester</i>
<i>Brian M. Ashe</i>	<i>2nd Hampden</i>
<i>Ruth B. Balsler</i>	<i>12th Middlesex</i>
<i>Jennifer E. Benson</i>	<i>37th Middlesex</i>
<i>Mike Connolly</i>	<i>26th Middlesex</i>
<i>Josh S. Cutler</i>	<i>6th Plymouth</i>
<i>Marjorie C. Decker</i>	<i>25th Middlesex</i>
<i>Michelle M. DuBois</i>	<i>10th Plymouth</i>
<i>Danielle W. Gregoire</i>	<i>4th Middlesex</i>
<i>Jonathan Hecht</i>	<i>29th Middlesex</i>
<i>Paul R. Heroux</i>	<i>2nd Bristol</i>
<i>Natalie Higgins</i>	<i>4th Worcester</i>
<i>Louis L. Kafka</i>	<i>8th Norfolk</i>
<i>Mary S. Keefe</i>	<i>15th Worcester</i>
<i>Kay Khan</i>	<i>11th Middlesex</i>
<i>Peter V. Kocot</i>	<i>1st Hampshire</i>
<i>Jack Lewis</i>	<i>7th Middlesex</i>

<i>Jay D. Livingstone</i>	<i>8th Suffolk</i>
<i>Adrian Madaro</i>	<i>1st Suffolk</i>
<i>Sarah K. Peake</i>	<i>4th Barnstable</i>
<i>Alice Hanlon Peisch</i>	<i>14th Norfolk</i>
<i>Denise Provost</i>	<i>27th Middlesex</i>
<i>David M. Rogers</i>	<i>24th Middlesex</i>
<i>Daniel J. Ryan</i>	<i>2nd Suffolk</i>
<i>Thomas M. Stanley</i>	<i>9th Middlesex</i>
<i>José F. Tosado</i>	<i>9th Hampden</i>
<i>Chris Walsh</i>	<i>6th Middlesex</i>

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 2121**

By Representative Ehrlich of Marblehead and Senator Eldridge, a joint petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 2121) of Lori A. Ehrlich, James B. Eldridge and others for legislation to reduce plastic bag pollution. Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture.

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

**In the One Hundred and Ninetieth General Court  
(2017-2018)**

An Act reducing plastic bag pollution.

*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. The General Laws are hereby amended by inserting after chapter 21O the  
2 following chapter:

3 CHAPTER 21P.

4 PLASTIC BAG REDUCTION

5 Section 1. As used in this chapter, the following words shall have the following meanings  
6 unless the context clearly requires otherwise:

7 “Postconsumer recycled material”, a material that would otherwise be destined for solid  
8 waste disposal, having completed its intended end use and product life cycle. Postconsumer  
9 recycled material does not include materials and byproducts generated from, and commonly  
10 reused within, an original manufacturing and fabrication process.

11           “Recycled paper bag”, a paper bag that is (i) 100 per cent recyclable; (ii) contains a  
12 minimum of 40 per cent postconsumer recycled materials, provided, however, that an 8 pound or  
13 smaller recycled paper bag shall contain a minimum of 20 per cent postconsumer recycled  
14 material; and (iii) displays the words "Recyclable" and "made from 40% post-consumer recycled  
15 content" or other applicable amount in a visible manner on the outside of the bag.

16           “Reusable grocery bag”, a sewn bag with stitched handles that is (i) specifically designed  
17 and manufactured for at least 175 uses; (ii) can carry 25 pounds over a distance of 300 feet; and  
18 (iii) is made of cloth or other machine-washable fabric other than polyethylene or polyvinyl  
19 chloride.

20           “Single-use carryout bag”, a bag made of plastic, paper, or other material that is provided  
21 by a store to a customer at the point of sale and that is not a recycled paper bag or a reusable  
22 grocery bag. A single-use carryout bag does not include the following: (i) a bag provided by a  
23 pharmacy to a customer purchasing a prescription medication; (ii) a non-handled bag used to  
24 protect items from damaging or contaminating other purchased items placed in a recycled paper  
25 bag, a reusable grocery bag, or a compostable plastic bag; (iii) a bag provided to contain an  
26 unwrapped food item; or (iv) a non-handled bag that is designed to be placed over articles of  
27 clothing on a hanger.

28           “Store”, a retail establishment with gross interior space of 3000 square feet or larger,  
29 exclusive of stockroom, office, storage and other space ancillary of a publicly accessible space  
30 intended to be frequented by consumers, or at least 3 locations under the same ownership or  
31 brand name within the commonwealth.

32           Section 2. (a) Except as provided in this section on and after August 1, 2018, a store shall  
33 not provide a single-use carryout bag to a customer at the point of sale.

34           (b) From the date of enactment until August 1, 2018, a store may make available for  
35 purchase at the point of sale a single-use carryout bag, reusable grocery bag, or recycled paper  
36 bag. A store that makes single-use carryout bags, reusable grocery bags, or recycled paper bags  
37 available for purchase prior to August 1, 2018 shall not sell the single-use carryout bag, reusable  
38 grocery bag, or recycled paper bag for less than \$0.10.

39           (c) On and after August 1, 2018, a store may make available for purchase a recycled  
40 paper bag, for a charge of no less than \$0.10.

41           (d) On and after August 1, 2018, a store may make available for purchase a reusable  
42 grocery bag, for a charge of no less than \$0.10.

43           (e) All moneys collected pursuant to this section shall be retained by the store.

44           (f) The department of environmental protection shall promulgate regulations with regard  
45 to the enforcement of this chapter.

46           Section 3. Nothing in this chapter shall preempt further limitation of single-use carryout  
47 bags by any political subdivision of the Commonwealth enacted after the enactment of this law;  
48 provided, however, that any municipality with an existing ordinance or by-law banning plastic  
49 bags shall be exempt from subsection (b) of section 2 of this act.