

**SENATE . . . . . No. 443**

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The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

***Michael J. Barrett***

*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 combat disposable plastic straw waste.

PETITION OF:

NAME:

*Michael J. Barrett*

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

*Third Middlesex*

**SENATE . . . . . No. 443**

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By Mr. Barrett, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 443) of Michael J. Barrett for legislation to reduce disposable plastic straw waste. Environment and Natural Resources.

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[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION  
SEE SENATE, NO. 494 OF 2021-2022.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

\_\_\_\_\_  
In the One Hundred and Ninety-Third General Court  
(2023-2024)  
\_\_\_\_\_

An Act to combat disposable plastic straw waste.

*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 140 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2020 Official Edition,  
2 is hereby amended by inserting after section 6B the following section:-

3 Section 6C. (a) As used in this section, the following terms shall have the following  
4 meanings:

5 “Biodegradable materials”, compostable materials such as wood, paper, bagasse or other  
6 cellulose fiber composite. Materials composed of biologically based polymers that do not  
7 reliably biodegrade in aquatic environments are not considered biodegradable.

8 “Consumer”, a person receiving food or beverages from a food service establishment.

9 “Department”, the Department of Environmental Protection.

10 “Food service establishment”, an operation that stores, prepares, serves, vends or  
11 otherwise provides food for human consumption. Food service establishments include without  
12 limitations full-service restaurants, food trucks, self-service food establishments and fast-food  
13 establishments.

14 “Single-use plastic straw”, a single-use, disposable drinking straw made of plastic  
15 derived from petroleum-based polymers or non-biodegradable biological polymer. A single-use  
16 plastic straw does not include reusable drinking straws or straws made from biodegradable  
17 material.

18 “Reusable straw”, a drinking straw that can be appropriately cleaned and sanitized for  
19 customer reuse.

20 (b) A food service establishment may not provide a single-use plastic straw unless  
21 requested by a consumer or selected by the consumer from a self-service dispenser.

22 (c) The department shall promulgate regulations with regard to the enforcement of this  
23 chapter.

24 SECTION 2. This act shall go into effect on January 2, 2025.