

**SENATE . . . . . No. 525**

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

***Jason M. Lewis***

*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 reduce single-use plastics from the environment.**

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	
<i>Jason M. Lewis</i>	<i>Fifth Middlesex</i>	
<i>Michael J. Barrett</i>	<i>Third Middlesex</i>	<i>1/30/2023</i>
<i>Joanne M. Comerford</i>	<i>Hampshire, Franklin and Worcester</i>	<i>3/6/2023</i>
<i>John F. Keenan</i>	<i>Norfolk and Plymouth</i>	<i>3/13/2023</i>
<i>Michael O. Moore</i>	<i>Second Worcester</i>	<i>3/20/2023</i>
<i>Susan L. Moran</i>	<i>Plymouth and Barnstable</i>	<i>4/3/2023</i>
<i>Sal N. DiDomenico</i>	<i>Middlesex and Suffolk</i>	<i>6/7/2023</i>
<i>Thomas M. Stanley</i>	<i>9th Middlesex</i>	<i>9/12/2023</i>

**SENATE . . . . . No. 525**

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By Mr. Lewis, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 525) of Jason M. Lewis, Michael J. Barrett and Joanne M. Comerford for legislation to reduce single-use plastics from the environment. Environment and Natural Resources.

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[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION  
SEE SENATE, NO. 579 OF 2021-2022.]

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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

An Act to reduce single-use plastics from the environment.

*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. Prevent Plastic Grocery Bags from Entering the Environment

2           Title II of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after chapter 210 the  
3 following chapter:

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

27 “Retail establishment”, a store or premises in which a person is engaged in the retail  
28 business of selling or providing merchandise, goods, groceries, prepared take-out food and  
29 beverages for consumption off-premises or the servicing of an item, directly to customers at such  
30 store or premises, including, but not limited to, grocery stores, department stores, pharmacies,

31 convenience stores, restaurants, coffee shops and seasonal and temporary businesses, including  
32 farmers markets and public markets; provided, however, that a “retail establishment” shall also  
33 include a food truck or other motor vehicle, mobile canteen, trailer, market pushcart or moveable  
34 roadside stand used by a person from which to engage in such business directly with customers  
35 and business establishments without a storefront, including, but not limited to, a business  
36 delivering prepared foods or other food items, web-based or catalog business or delivery services  
37 used by a retail establishment; provided further, that a “retail establishment” shall include a non-  
38 profit organization, charity or religious institution that has a retail establishment and holds itself  
39 out to the public as engaging in retail activities that are characteristic of similar type retail  
40 businesses, whether or not for profit when engaging in such activity.

41 Section 2. (a) Eighteen months after the enactment of this law, a Retail establishment  
42 may only make available for purchase at the point of sale a reusable grocery bag.

43 (b) For up to 180 days from the date of enactment, a Retail establishment may make  
44 available for purchase at the point of sale a single-use carryout bag, reusable grocery bag, or  
45 recycled paper bag.

46 (c) 180 days after the enactment of this law, a Retail establishment may make available  
47 for purchase a recycled paper bag, for a charge of \$0.10. This shall end eighteen months after the  
48 enactment of this law.

49 (d) 180 days after the enactment of this law, a Retail establishment may make available  
50 for purchase a reusable grocery bag, for a charge of no less than \$0.10.

51 (e) All moneys collected pursuant to this section shall be retained by the Retail  
52 establishment.

53 (f) The department of environmental protection shall promulgate regulations with regard  
54 to the enforcement of this chapter. The department of environmental protection shall establish a  
55 small business exemption process by which a Retail establishment may elect to be exempt from  
56 the provisions of subsections (b) through (d) of this section. A Retail establishment electing for  
57 said exemption must provide to the department a self-audit attesting that they meet the following  
58 criteria:

59 (i) the owner of the Retail establishment has 3 or fewer store locations under the same  
60 ownership; and

61 (ii) each Retail establishment has less than 4,000 square feet of retail selling space; and

62 (iii) each Retail establishment has 15 or fewer employees employed at the store location;  
63 and either

64 (iv) the Retail establishment is not a food establishment as defined by 105 CMR  
65 590.001(C); or

66 (v) the Retail establishment provided to consumers at the point of sale less than 15,000  
67 carry-out bags or checkout bags in total during the previous calendar year.

68 Section 3. Any municipality with an existing ordinance, rule, regulation, or by-law  
69 banning or regulating single-use carryout bags, recycled paper bags, or reusable grocery bags in  
70 the commonwealth shall be null and void 180 days after the enactment of this law. The exclusive  
71 authority in regulating the labeling, distribution, sale, storage, transportation, use, and disposal of  
72 single-use carryout bags, recycled paper bags, and reusable grocery bags in the commonwealth  
73 shall be determined by this chapter.

74 SECTION 2. Reduce Polystyrene in the Environment

75 The General Laws are hereby amended by inserting after chapter 21P the following  
76 chapter:

77 Chapter 21Q.

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

80 “Disposable Food Service Ware” shall mean single-use or disposable products for  
81 heating, storing, packaging, serving, consuming, or transporting prepared or ready-to-consume  
82 food or beverages including, but not limited to, bowls, plates, trays, cartons, cups, lids, hinged or  
83 lidded containers, spoons, forks and knives. This includes any containers used by food  
84 establishments to heat, cook, or store food or beverages prior to serving, regardless of whether  
85 such containers are used to serve such food or beverages. Disposable Food Service Ware also  
86 includes any such implements sold by Retail Establishments to consumers for personal use.

87 “Foam Polystyrene” shall mean polystyrene in the form of a foam or expanded material,  
88 processed by any number of techniques including, but not limited to, fusion of polymer spheres  
89 (expandable bead polystyrene), injection molding, foam molding, and extrusion-blow molding  
90 (extruded foam polystyrene).

91 “Food Establishment” shall mean any operation that serves, vends or otherwise provides  
92 food or other products to third-parties for consumption and/or use on or off the premises,  
93 whether or not a fee is charged, but not including the service of food within a home or other  
94 private setting. Any facility requiring a food permit in accordance with the Massachusetts State

95 Food Code, 105 CMR 590.000, et seq. and/or regulations of the Board of Health shall be  
96 considered a “food establishment” for purposes of this bylaw.

97 “Health Agent” shall mean the Health Agent for the city or town of the facility, or his/her  
98 designee.

99 “Packing Material” shall mean material used to hold, cushion, or protect items packed in  
100 a container for shipping transport or storage.

101 “Prepared Food” shall mean food or beverages, which are serviced, packaged, cooked,  
102 chopped, sliced, mixed, brewed, frozen, squeezed, or otherwise prepared (collectively  
103 “prepared”) for individual customers or consumers. Prepared Food does not include raw eggs or  
104 raw, butchered meats, fish, seafood, and/or poultry.

105 “Polystyrene” shall mean a synthetic polymer produced by polymerization of styrene  
106 monomer. Polystyrene includes both “Foam Polystyrene” and “Solid Polystyrene” as defined in  
107 this Bylaw. The International Resin Identification Code assigned to polystyrene materials is “6”.  
108 Polystyrene items may be identified by a "6" or "PS," either alone or in combination with other  
109 letters. The regulations and prohibitions relating to polystyrene in this law are intended to apply  
110 regardless of the presence or absence of an International Resin Identification Code or other  
111 identifying marks on the item.

112 “Retail Establishment” shall mean a store or premises engaged in the retail business of  
113 selling or providing merchandise, goods, groceries, prepared take-out food and beverages for  
114 consumption off-premises or the serving of an item directly to customers at such store or  
115 premises, including, but not limited to, grocery stores, department stores, pharmacies,  
116 convenience stores, restaurants, coffee shops and seasonal and temporary businesses, including

117 farmers markets and public markets; provided, however, that a “retail establishment” shall also  
118 include a food truck or other motor vehicle, mobile canteen, trailer, market pushcart or moveable  
119 roadside stand used by a person from which to engage in such business directly with customers  
120 and business establishments without a storefront, including, but not limited to, a business  
121 delivering prepared foods or other food items, web-based or catalog business or delivery services  
122 used by a retail establishment; provided further, that a “retail establishment” shall include a non-  
123 profit organization, charity or religious institution that has a retail establishment and holds itself  
124 out to the public as engaging in retail activities that are characteristic of similar type commercial  
125 retail businesses, whether or not for profit when engaging in such activity.

126 “Solid Polystyrene” shall mean polystyrene, including clear (oriented) polystyrene,  
127 produced in a rigid form with minimal incorporation of air or other gas. Solid polystyrene is also  
128 referred to as ‘rigid polystyrene’.

## 129 Section 2. Regulated Conduct

130 a. One year after passage of this Act, no Food Establishment in the Commonwealth of  
131 Massachusetts may use, sell, offer for sale, or otherwise distribute disposable food service ware  
132 made from foam polystyrene or solid polystyrene.

133 b. One year after passage of this Act, no Retail Establishment in the Commonwealth of  
134 Massachusetts may sell, offer for sale, or otherwise distribute: 1. disposable food service ware  
135 made from foam polystyrene or solid polystyrene 2. meat trays, fish trays, seafood trays,  
136 vegetable trays, or egg cartons made in whole or in any part with foam polystyrene or solid  
137 polystyrene 3. distributing packing materials, including packing peanuts and shipping boxes  
138 made in whole or in any part with foam polystyrene that is not wholly encapsulated within a



139 more durable material. 4. coolers, ice chests, or similar containers; pool or beach toys; and dock  
140 floats, mooring buoys, or anchor or navigation markers, which are made in whole or in any part  
141 with foam polystyrene that is not wholly encapsulated within a more durable material.

142 c. For the purposes of Section 2(b)(3), 'distributing packing material' does not include: 1.  
143 Re-using packing materials for shipping, transport, or storage within the same distribution  
144 system, where the packing materials are not sent to a customer or end user. 2. Receiving  
145 shipments within the Commonwealth that include polystyrene foam used as a packing material,  
146 provided that the goods were not packaged or repackaged within the Commonwealth of  
147 Massachusetts.

### 148 Section 3. Exemption

149 a) Nothing in this chapter shall prohibit individuals from using disposable food service  
150 ware or other items made of polystyrene purchased outside the Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
151 for personal use. b) Prepared food packaged outside the Commonwealth of Massachusetts is  
152 exempt from the provisions of this chapter, provided that it is sold or otherwise provided to the  
153 consumer in the same disposable food service ware in which it was originally packaged, and that  
154 the prepared food has not been altered or repackaged. c) The Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
155 Department of Environmental Protection or the Board of Health of the city or town in which the  
156 food or retail establishment is located may exempt a food establishment or retail establishment  
157 from any provision of this chapter for a period of up to six months upon written application by  
158 the owner or operator of that establishment. No exemption will be granted unless the Department  
159 of Environmental Protection or the Board of Health finds that (1) strict enforcement of the  
160 provision for which the exemption is sought would cause undue hardship; or (2) the food

161 establishment or retail establishment requires additional time in order to draw down an existing  
162 inventory of a specific item regulated by this chapter. For purposes of this chapter, “undue  
163 hardship” shall mean a situation unique to a food establishment or retail establishment in which  
164 there are no reasonable alternatives to the use of materials prohibited by this chapter, and that  
165 compliance with this chapter would create significant economic hardship for the Establishment.

#### 166 Section 4. Enforcement

167 Health Agents of the cities and towns of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts shall also  
168 have the authority to enforce this chapter. This chapter may be enforced through any lawful  
169 means in law or in equity, including but not limited to, noncriminal disposition pursuant to G.L.  
170 c. 40 § 21D and Article VI of the General Bylaws. The town or city may enforce this chapter or  
171 enjoin violations thereof through any lawful process or combination of processes, and the  
172 election of one remedy by the town or city shall not preclude enforcement through any other  
173 lawful means.

174 Violations of this chapter are punishable by a fine of up to \$300 per violation. Each  
175 successive day of noncompliance will count as a separate violation.

176 If non-criminal disposition is elected, then any Food or Retail Establishment that violates  
177 any provision of this chapter shall be subject to the following penalties: (i) first offense: written  
178 warning;(ii) second offense: \$50 penalty, and (iii) third and each subsequent offense: \$300  
179 penalty

#### 180 Section 5. Regulations

181 The Board of Health may adopt and amend rules and regulations to effectuate the  
182 purposes of this chapter.

183 Section 6. Interaction with Other Laws

184 In the case of a conflict between the requirements of this chapter and any other federal,  
185 state or local law concerning the materials regulated herein, the more stringent requirements shall  
186 apply.

187 Section 7. Severability

188 If any provision of this chapter is declared invalid or unenforceable the other provisions  
189 shall not be affected thereby.

190 SECTION 3. Reduce Plastic Straws in the Environment

191 The General Laws are hereby amended by inserting after chapter 21Q the following  
192 chapter:

193 Chapter 21R.

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

196 “Disability” shall mean a physical, intellectual, or sensory impairment that substantially  
197 limits one or more major life activities.

198 “Disposable plastic straw, stirrer, or splash stick” shall mean a drinking straw, stirrer, or  
199 splash stick made predominantly from synthetic polymers and that is not a reusable straw, stirrer,  
200 or splash stick. A disposable plastic straw, stirrer, or splash stick shall also include items made in

201 whole or in part from synthetic polymers that are otherwise classified as ‘compostable’,  
202 ‘biodegradable’, ‘oxodegradable’, or ‘marine degradable’.

203 “Food Establishment” shall mean any operation that serves, vends or otherwise provides  
204 food or other products to third-parties for consumption and/or use on or off the premises,  
205 whether or not a fee is charged, but not including the service of food within a home or other  
206 private setting. Any facility requiring a food permit in accordance with the Massachusetts State  
207 Food Code, 105 CMR 590.000, et seq. and/or regulations of the Board of Health shall be  
208 considered a “food establishment” for purposes of this bylaw.

209 “Health Agent” shall mean the Health Agent for the city or town of the facility or his/her  
210 designee.

211 “Medical Condition” shall mean any illness, disease, or injury that requires medical  
212 treatment.

213 “Reusable straw, stirrer, or splash stick” shall mean a drinking straw, stirrer, or splash  
214 stick that is manufactured from durable materials, and is designed to be adequately and  
215 repeatedly cleaned and sanitized for reuse.

216 “Retail Establishment” shall mean a store or premises engaged in the retail business of  
217 selling or providing merchandise, goods, groceries, prepared take-out food and beverages for  
218 consumption off-premises or the serving of an item, directly to customers at such store or  
219 premises, including, but not limited to, grocery stores, department stores, clothing stores,  
220 pharmacies, convenience stores, restaurants, coffee shops and seasonal and temporary  
221 businesses, including farmers markets and public markets; provided, however, that a “retail  
222 establishment” shall also include a food truck or other motor vehicle, mobile canteen, trailer,

223 market pushcart or moveable roadside stand used by a person from which to engage in such  
224 business directly with customers and business establishments without a storefront, including, but  
225 not limited to, a business delivering prepared foods or other food items, web-based or catalog  
226 business or delivery services used by a retail establishment; provided further, that a “retail  
227 establishment” shall include a non-profit organization, charity or religious institution that has a  
228 retail establishment and holds itself out to the public as engaging in retail activities that are  
229 characteristic of similar type commercial retail businesses, whether or not for profit when  
230 engaging in such activity.

## 231 Section 2. Regulated Conduct

232 a. One year after passage of this Act, no food establishment in the Commonwealth of  
233 Massachusetts may provide a disposable plastic straw, stirrer, or splash stick, as such term is  
234 defined in this chapter, to a customer.

235 b. One year after passage of this Act, no food establishment in the Commonwealth of  
236 Massachusetts may provide a disposable straw, stirrer, or splash stick that is not a reusable straw,  
237 stirrer, or splash stick to a customer, except upon that customer’s specific request for such items  
238 or if the item is selected by a customer from a self-service dispenser.

239 c. One year after passage of this Act, retail establishments in the Commonwealth of  
240 Massachusetts are prohibited from selling or distributing disposable plastic straws, stirrers, or  
241 splash sticks to customers unless equivalent non-plastic or reusable straws, stirrers, or splash  
242 sticks are available for sale and are clearly labeled such that any customer can easily distinguish  
243 among the disposable plastic, disposable non-plastic, and reusable items.

## 244 Section 3. Exemptions

245 a. Nothing in this bylaw shall prohibit individuals from bringing and using their own  
246 personal straws, stirrers, or splash sticks of any type for personal use in a food establishment. b.  
247 Food establishments may provide a disposable plastic straw, stirrer, or splash stick, upon request,  
248 to a person in need due to a disability or medical condition. c. The Department of Environmental  
249 Protections or the Board of Health or health agent of the city or town in which the establishment  
250 is located may exempt a food establishment or retail establishment from any provision of this  
251 chapter for a period of up to six months upon written application by the owner or operator of that  
252 establishment. No exemption will be granted unless the Department or the Board of Health or  
253 health agent finds that the establishment requires additional time in order to draw down an  
254 existing inventory of a specific item regulated by this chapter.

255 Section 4. Enforcement

256 Health Agents shall have the authority to enforce this bylaw. This bylaw may be enforced  
257 through any lawful means in law or in equity, including but not limited to, noncriminal  
258 disposition pursuant to G.L. c. 40 § 21D and Article VI of the General Bylaws. The city or town  
259 may enforce this chapter or enjoin violations thereof through any lawful process or combination  
260 of processes, and the election of one remedy by the city or town shall not preclude enforcement  
261 through any other lawful means.

262 Violations of this bylaw are punishable by a fine of up to \$300 per violation. Each  
263 successive day of noncompliance will count as a separate violation.

264 If non-criminal disposition is elected, then any Food Establishment or Retail  
265 Establishment that violates any provision of this bylaw shall be subject to the following

266 penalties: (i) first offense: written warning, (ii) second offense: \$50 penalty, and (iii) third and  
267 each subsequent offense: \$300 penalty.

268 Section 5. Regulations

269 The Board of Health may adopt and amend rules and regulations to effectuate the  
270 purposes of this chapter.

271 Section 6. Interaction with Other Laws

272 In the case of a conflict between the requirements of this chapter and any other federal,  
273 state or local law concerning the materials regulated herein, the more stringent requirements shall  
274 apply.

275 Section 7. Severability

276 If any provision of this chapter is declared invalid or unenforceable the other provisions  
277 shall not be affected thereby.

278 SECTION 4. To Prevent the Release of Helium Balloons into the Environment

279 Chapter 131 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2016 official edition, is hereby  
280 amended by adding the following new section:

281 Section 119. The sale, distribution and release of any type of balloon, including, but not  
282 limited to, plastic or latex, filled with any type of lighter than air gas, both for public or private  
283 use, is hereby prohibited. Whoever violates any provision of this section shall be punished by a  
284 fine of not more than one hundred dollars.

285           The provisions of this section shall not apply to (i) balloons released by or on behalf of  
286 any agency of the commonwealth or the United States for scientific or meteorological purposes,  
287 or (ii) hot air balloons that are recovered after launch.

288           SECTION 5. To Prevent the Release of Nips into the Environment

289           One year after passage of this Act, the sale of alcoholic beverages in containers less than  
290 or equal to 100 milliliters is prohibited within the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

291           SECTION 6. To Prevent the Release of Wipes Containing Plastic into the Environment

292           Section 1. For purposes of this section, the following definition shall apply:

293           “Plastic Wipe”, a nonwoven disposable product manufactured and sold in this state or  
294 brought into the state for sale that is constructed from plastic resin (including, but not limited to,  
295 polyester and polypropylene) nonwoven sheets, including moist toilet tissue or cloth, that is  
296 designed, marketed to or commonly used by the general public for personal hygiene or cleaning  
297 purposes, including, but not limited to, diaper wipes, toilet wipes, household cleaning wipes,  
298 personal care wipes and facial wipes.

299           Section 2. No retailer shall sell or distribute plastic wet wipes other than those used for  
300 medical applications.

301           Section 3. This law shall not affect prescription products.

302           SECTION 7. To Prevent the Release of Hotel Toiletry Bottles into the Environment

303           Section 1. (a) For purposes of this section, the following definitions shall apply:



304 (1) “Hosted rental” means a house, apartment, or other livable space where the person  
305 providing sleeping accommodations is a permanent resident who lives on the premises.

306 (2) “Lodging establishment” means an establishment that contains one or more sleeping  
307 room accommodations that are rented or otherwise provided to the public, including, but not  
308 limited to, a hotel, motel, resort, bed and breakfast inn, or vacation rental. “Lodging  
309 establishment” does not include a hospital, nursing home, residential retirement community,  
310 prison, jail, homeless shelter, boarding school, worker housing, long-term rental, or hosted  
311 rental.

312 (3) “Personal care product” means a product intended to be applied to or used on the  
313 human body in the shower, bath, or any part thereof and shall include only shampoo, hair  
314 conditioner, and bath soap.

315 (4) “Plastic” means any synthetic material made from organic polymers, such as  
316 polyethylene, polyvinyl chloride (PVC), or nylon, that can be molded into shape while soft and  
317 then set into a rigid or slightly elastic form. “Plastic” includes all materials identified with resin  
318 codes 1 to 7, inclusive.

319 (5) “Small plastic bottle” means a plastic bottle or container with less than a 6-ounce  
320 capacity that is intended to be nonreusable by the end user.

321 (b) Commencing January 1, 2024, for lodging establishments with more than 50 rooms,  
322 and January 1, 2025, for lodging establishments with 50 rooms or less, a lodging establishment  
323 shall not provide a small plastic bottle containing a personal care product to a person staying in a  
324 sleeping room accommodation, in any space within the sleeping room accommodation, or within  
325 bathrooms shared by the public or guests.

326 (c) A lodging establishment is encouraged to use bulk dispensers of personal care  
327 products to reduce plastic waste and lower operating costs, mindful of the health and safety of a  
328 person.

329 (d) A lodging establishment may provide personal care products in small plastic bottles to  
330 a person at no cost, upon request, at a place other than a sleeping room accommodation, a space  
331 within the sleeping room accommodation, or within bathrooms shared by the public or guests.

332 (e) A local agency with authority to inspect sleeping accommodations in a lodging  
333 establishment may issue a citation for a violation of subdivision (b). Upon a first violation, the  
334 local Board of Health shall issue a written warning, which shall recite the violation and advise  
335 that subsequent violations may result in citations. Upon a second or subsequent violation, the  
336 local agency may impose a penalty of five hundred dollars (\$500) for each day the lodging  
337 establishment is in violation, but not to exceed two thousand dollars (\$2,000) annually.

338 (f) A lodging establishment in violation of subdivision (b) is liable for a civil penalty of  
339 five hundred dollars (\$500) for the first violation and two thousand dollars (\$2,000) for a second  
340 or subsequent violation.

341 (g) (1) On and after January 1, 2024, a city, county, or city and county shall not pass or  
342 enforce an ordinance, resolution, regulation, or rule relating to personal care products in plastic  
343 bottles provided at lodging establishments, except as provided in paragraph (2).

344 Section 2. A city, county, or city and county that, before January 1, 2024, passed an  
345 ordinance, resolution, regulation, or rule relating to personal care products in plastic bottles  
346 provided at lodging establishments may enforce that ordinance, resolution, regulation, or rule, if  
347 it is at least as stringent as, and not in conflict with, this section.

348 SECTION 8. To Prevent the Release of Plastic Water Bottles Into the Environment

349 Section 1. (a) For purposes of this section, the following definitions shall apply:

350 "Single-serve plastic container" means a container with a volume of 1 liter or less made  
351 in whole or in part of plastic resin codes 1 through 6 (excluding the label or cap).

352 "Bottled Water" means non-sparkling, unflavored drinking water.

353 Section 2. Restrictions

354 No retailer shall sell or distribute any bottled water in a single-serve plastic container  
355 other than nutritive drinks, tea, coffee, or unflavored carbonated water.

356 Section 3. Exclusions

357 Sales or distribution of drinking water in plastic bottles occurring subsequent to a  
358 declaration by a duly authorized Town, state or Federal official of an emergency affecting the  
359 availability and/or quality of drinking water to residents of the Town shall be exempt from this  
360 bylaw until seven days after the declaration has ended.

361 Section 4. Effective Date

362 The provisions of this law shall take effect one year after passage of this Act.

363 SECTION 9. To Prevent the Release of Black Plastic into the Environment

364 The General Laws are hereby amended by inserting after chapter 21R the following  
365 chapter:

366 Chapter 21S.

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

369 “Disposable Food Service Ware” shall mean single-use or disposable products for  
370 heating, storing, packaging, serving, consuming, or transporting prepared or ready-to-consume  
371 food or beverages including, but not limited to, bowls, plates, trays, cartons, cups, lids, hinged or  
372 lidded containers, spoons, forks and knives. This includes any containers used by food  
373 establishments to heat, cook, or store food or beverages prior to serving, regardless of whether  
374 such containers are used to serve such food or beverages. Disposable Food Service Ware also  
375 includes any such implements sold by Retail Establishments to consumers for personal use.

376 “Black Plastic” shall mean any plastic with any plastic resin codes #1-#7.

377 “Food Establishment” shall mean any operation that serves, vends or otherwise provides  
378 food or other products to third-parties for consumption and/or use on or off the premises,  
379 whether or not a fee is charged, but not including the service of food within a home or other  
380 private setting. Any facility requiring a food permit in accordance with the Massachusetts State  
381 Food Code, 105 CMR 590.000, et seq. and/or regulations of the Board of Health shall be  
382 considered a “food establishment” for purposes of this bylaw.

383 “Health Agent” shall mean the Health Agent for the city or town of the facility or his/her  
384 designee.

385 “Prepared Food” shall mean food or beverages, which are serviced, packaged, cooked,  
386 chopped, sliced, mixed, brewed, frozen, squeezed, or otherwise prepared (collectively  
387 “prepared”) for individual customers or consumers. Prepared Food does not include raw eggs or  
388 raw, butchered meats, fish, seafood, and/or poultry.

389           “Retail Establishment” shall mean a store or premises engaged in the retail business of  
390 selling or providing merchandise, goods, groceries, prepared take-out food and beverages for  
391 consumption off-premises or the serving of an item directly to customers at such store or  
392 premises, including, but not limited to, grocery stores, department stores, pharmacies,  
393 convenience stores, restaurants, coffee shops and seasonal and temporary businesses, including  
394 farmers markets and public markets; provided, however, that a “retail establishment” shall also  
395 include a food truck or other motor vehicle, mobile canteen, trailer, market pushcart or moveable  
396 roadside stand used by a person from which to engage in such business directly with customers  
397 and business establishments without a storefront, including, but not limited to, a business  
398 delivering prepared foods or other food items, web-based or catalog business or delivery services  
399 used by a retail establishment; provided further, that a “retail establishment” shall include a non-  
400 profit organization, charity or religious institution that has a retail establishment and holds itself  
401 out to the public as engaging in retail activities that are characteristic of similar type commercial  
402 retail businesses, whether or not for profit when engaging in such activity.

403           Section 2. Regulated Conduct

404           a. One year after passage of this Act, no Food Establishment in the Commonwealth of  
405 Massachusetts may use, sell, offer for sale, or otherwise distribute disposable food service ware  
406 made from black plastic.

407           b. One year after passage of this Act, no Retail Establishment in the Commonwealth of  
408 Massachusetts may sell, offer for sale, or otherwise distribute: 1. disposable food service ware  
409 made from black plastic. 2. meat trays, fish trays, seafood trays, vegetable trays, or egg cartons  
410 made in whole or in any part with black plastic.

411 Section 3. Exemption

412 a) Nothing in this chapter shall prohibit individuals from using disposable food service  
413 ware or other items made of black plastic purchased outside the Commonwealth of  
414 Massachusetts for personal use. b) Prepared food packaged outside the Commonwealth of  
415 Massachusetts is exempt from the provisions of this chapter, provided that it is sold or otherwise  
416 provided to the consumer in the same disposable food service ware in which it was originally  
417 packaged, and that the prepared food has not been altered or repackaged. c) The Commonwealth  
418 of Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection or the Board of Health of the city or  
419 town in which the food or retail establishment is located may exempt a food establishment or  
420 retail establishment from any provision of this chapter for a period of up to six months upon  
421 written application by the owner or operator of that establishment. No exemption will be granted  
422 unless the Department of Environmental Protection or the Board of Health finds that (1) strict  
423 enforcement of the provision for which the exemption is sought would cause undue hardship; or  
424 (2) the food establishment or retail establishment requires additional time in order to draw down  
425 an existing inventory of a specific item regulated by this chapter. For purposes of this chapter,  
426 “undue hardship” shall mean a situation unique to a food establishment or retail establishment in  
427 which there are no reasonable alternatives to the use of materials prohibited by this chapter, and  
428 that compliance with this chapter would create significant economic hardship for the  
429 Establishment.

430 Section 4. Enforcement

431 Health Agents of the cities and towns of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts shall also  
432 have the authority to enforce this chapter. This chapter may be enforced through any lawful

433 means in law or in equity, including but not limited to, noncriminal disposition pursuant to G.L.  
434 c. 40 § 21D and Article VI of the General Bylaws. The town or city may enforce this chapter or  
435 enjoin violations thereof through any lawful process or combination of processes, and the  
436 election of one remedy by the town or city shall not preclude enforcement through any other  
437 lawful means.

438           Violations of this chapter are punishable by a fine of up to \$300 per violation. Each  
439 successive day of noncompliance will count as a separate violation.

440           If non-criminal disposition is elected, then any Food or Retail Establishment that violates  
441 any provision of this chapter shall be subject to the following penalties:

442           First Offense: written warning

443           Second Offense: \$50 penalty

444           Third and each subsequent offense: \$300 penalty

445           Section 5. Regulations

446           The Board of Health may adopt and amend rules and regulations to effectuate the  
447 purposes of this chapter.

448           Section 6. Interaction with Other Laws

449           In the case of a conflict between the requirements of this chapter and any other federal,  
450 state or local law concerning the materials regulated herein, the more stringent requirements shall  
451 apply.

452           Section 7. Severability

453 If any provision of this chapter is declared invalid or unenforceable the other provisions  
454 shall not be affected thereby.

455 SECTION 10. To Support Our Restaurants

456 Section 1. For purposes of this chapter, the following terms have the following  
457 definitions:

458 (a) “Disposable”, means designed to be discarded after a single or limited number of uses  
459 and not designed or manufactured for long-term multiple reuse.

460 (b) “Food service ware accessories”, include food service ware such as straws, stirrers,  
461 cup spill plugs, cup sleeves, condiments and condiment packets, utensils (including chopsticks),  
462 cocktail sticks/picks, toothpicks, napkins, and other similar accessory or accompanying food  
463 service ware used as part of food or beverage service or packaging. Detachable lids for beverage  
464 cups and food containers are not considered a food service ware accessory.

465 (c) “Food facility”, means an operation that stores, prepares, packages, serves, vends, or  
466 otherwise provides food to the public for human consumption.

467 (d) “Takeout food”, means prepared food requiring no further preparation, which is  
468 purchased to be consumed off a prepared food facility’s premises. Takeout food includes  
469 prepared food delivered by a food facility or by a third-party takeout food delivery service.

470 (e) “Takeout food delivery service”, is a service that delivers takeout food from a food  
471 facility to a customer for consumption off the premises. This service can be provided directly by  
472 the food facility or by a third party.

473 Section 2.



474 (a) No food facility shall provide any disposable food service ware accessories except:

475 1. Upon request by the consumer;

476 2. Upon acceptance by the consumer after being offered by the food facility; or

477 3. At a self-serve area and/or a dispenser.

478 (b) Food facilities shall only distribute disposable food service ware if they charge the  
479 customer what that food ware cost the food facility, or a dollar, whichever is greater.

480 (c) Takeout food delivery services that utilize digital ordering/point of sale platforms,  
481 including but not limited to the internet and smartphones, shall only offer disposable food service  
482 ware accessories by providing clear options for customers to affirmatively request these items  
483 separate from orders for food and beverages. The default option on the digital ordering/point of  
484 sale platforms shall be that no disposable food service ware accessories are requested. Each  
485 individual disposable food service ware accessory (e.g., each fork, knife, condiment packet,  
486 napkin, etc.) provided with prepared food must be specifically requested by the customer in order  
487 for a food facility to provide it.

488 (d) Takeout food delivery services shall only distribute disposable food service ware if  
489 they charge the customer what that food ware cost the food facility, or a dollar, whichever is  
490 greater.

491 SECTION 11. The General Laws are hereby amended by inserting after chapter 21O the  
492 following chapter:

493 CHAPTER 21P.

494 IMPROVED PLASTIC BOTTLES AND INCREASED RECYCLING

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

497 (a) “Beverage”, any of the following products prepared for immediate consumption and  
498 sold in a single-use container: beer and malt beverages; wine distilled spirit coolers; carbonated  
499 water and soda; noncarbonated water; carbonated soft drinks; noncarbonated soft drinks and  
500 ‘soft’ drinks; non-carbonated fruit drinks that contain any percentage of fruit juice and vegetable  
501 juice; coffee and tea drinks; carbonated fruit drinks; vegetable and fruit juice, sports drinks,  
502 fermented non-alcoholic drinks;

503 (b) “Beverage cap”, a cap on any plastic beverage container that is made wholly or in  
504 large part from plastic;

505 (c) “Plastic beverage container”, an individual, separate bottle, can, jar, carton, or other  
506 receptacle, however denominated, in which one liter or less of a beverage is sold, and that is  
507 constructed of plastic. “Beverage container” does not include a cup or other similar container  
508 open or loosely sealed receptacle;

509 (d) “The Department” means the Department of Environmental Protection for the  
510 Commonwealth of Massachusetts;

511 (e) “Plastic”, an organic or petroleum derivative synthetic or a semisynthetic organic  
512 solid that is moldable, and to which additives or other substances may have been added, with the  
513 exception of natural polymers that have not been chemically modified;

514 (f) “Product manufacturer” means any person, partnership, association, corporation or  
515 any other entity that, through its own action or through contract or control, is primarily  
516 responsible for causing a product to be produced that is held inside of a rigid plastic packaging  
517 container and sold or offered for sale in Massachusetts.

518 i. The Department shall consider the following factors in identifying a product  
519 manufacturer: (1) the ownership of the brand name of the product in the beverage container; (2)  
520 primary control or influence over the design of the product in the beverage container; (3) primary  
521 control or influence over the design specifications of the beverage container;

522 ii. Any entity that has a legally recognized corporate relationship (i.e. parent/subsidiary or  
523 affiliate relationship) with a product manufacturer shall be allowed to assume the responsibilities  
524 of the product manufacturer as they relate to the requirements of this Act.

525 (h) “Retailer” means a person who sells a beverage in a beverage container to a  
526 consumer;

527 (i) “Single use”, means intended for disposal after one use and used for serving or  
528 transporting a prepared, ready-to-consume product, and is not intended for multiple trips or  
529 rotations by being returned to the producer for refill or reused for the same purpose for which it  
530 was conceived.

## 531 Section 2. Prohibition

532 (a) On and after January 1, 2024, a retailer shall not sell or offer for sale, in the state, a  
533 single-use beverage container with a beverage cap, unless the container meets one of the  
534 following conditions: (i) the beverage cap is tethered to the container in a manner that prevents

535 the separation of the cap from the container when the cap is removed from the container; (ii) The  
536 beverage cap includes an opening from which the beverage can be consumed while the cap is  
537 screwed onto or otherwise contiguously affixed to the container;

538 (b) Metal caps or lids with plastic seals shall not be considered to be made from plastic.  
539 Glass and metal beverage containers that have caps and lids made from plastic shall not be  
540 included in this act;

541 SECTION 12. Requirements for the Removal of Toxic Substances in Beverage  
542 Containers, Food Ware, and Food Ware Accessories

543 (1) Definitions:

544 (a) "Beverage container", means a prepackaged container designed to hold a beverage  
545 that is made of any material, including glass, plastic, and metal, cartons, pouches, and aseptic  
546 packaging.

547 (b) "Food ware accessories", include food serviceware such as straws, stirrers, cup spill  
548 plugs, cup sleeves, condiments and condiment packets, utensils (including chopsticks), cocktail  
549 sticks/picks, toothpicks, napkins, and other similar accessory or accompanying food service ware  
550 used as part of food or beverage service or packaging.

551 (c) "Food ware". means any single use or reusable containers that food is served in or  
552 sold in.

553 (d) "Food packaging" means any packaging that comes into direct contact with food that  
554 will eventually be consumed by human beings or animals.

555 (2) Beginning two years after adoption of this bill, no person or entity may sell, offer for  
556 sale, or distributed into the state any beverage container, food ware accessories, food ware, or  
557 food packaging containing the following toxic substances:

558 (a) Ortho-phthalates, (b) Bisphenols, (c) Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), (d)  
559 Lead and lead compounds, (e) Hexavalent chromium and compounds, (f) Cadmium and  
560 cadmium compounds, (g) Mercury and mercury compounds, (h) Benzophenone and its  
561 derivatives, (i) Halogenated flame retardants, (j) Perchlorate, (k) Formaldehyde, (l) Toluene, (m)  
562 Antimony and compounds, and (n) UV 328 (2-(2H-benzotriazol-2-yl)-4,6-di-tert-pentylphenol).

563 (3) Beginning two years after the Start Date, no person or entity shall sell, offer for sale,  
564 or distributed for use in this state any Beverage Container containing (a) polyvinyl chloride, (b)  
565 polystyrene, or (c) polycarbonate.

566 (4) Beginning three years after the start date, and every three years thereafter, the  
567 Department of Environmental Protection shall designate at least ten additional toxic substances  
568 or families of toxic substances that may no longer be used in Beverage Containers unless the  
569 Department of Environmental Protection determines there are not ten toxic substances of  
570 families of toxic substances that are required to be banned from use in beverage containers.

571 (5) Any producer that violates this section shall be subject to a fine for each violation not  
572 to exceed fifty thousand dollars per violation. For the purposes of this section, each product line  
573 that is sold, offered for sale, or distributed to consumers, via retail commerce, in the state,  
574 including through an internet transaction violation shall be considered a violation.

575 SECTION 13. The provisions of this bill shall take effect one year after passage unless  
576 otherwise specified.