

SENATE No. 443

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

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.

[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.

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

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

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

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

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

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