



House Bill 1162: Management of Plastic Products

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This House Bill was introduced on March 3 and assigned to the House Energy and Environment Committee/Finance and repeals current law that prohibits the ban of sale or use of plastic materials or products. It is scheduled for Thursday, March 11 at 1:30.

On the topic of Single Use Plastic Bags:

It sets Sept. 1, 2021 as the beginning date to charge \$.10 (or more based on municipality) per reusable plastic bags and recycled paper bags at stores and retail food establishments. On Sept. 1, 2022 stores are no longer allowed to provide single use plastic bags, (except for inventory purchased before Sept. 1, 2022 and used by March 31, 2023 while charging a \$.10 fee for each). On Sept. 1, 2022, only recycled paper bags will be allowed with a \$.10 or more fee. A 60% bag revenue, beginning Jan. 1, 2022 will go to the municipality and 40% bag revenue is retained by businesses for enforcement, recycling, composting, waste diversion or education.

On the topic of Expanded Polystyrene:

Retail food establishments are prohibited from polystyrene (foam) use for ready to eat foods beginning Jan 1, 2022. Certain schools are exempt until Jan. 1, 2023 and high schools until Jan. 1, 2024. Retail food establishments can deplete the supply purchased before Jan. 1, 2022. Violations of this ruling is subject to civil penalties of \$500 for second violation and \$1,000 for third or future ones. After July 1, 2023 higher penalties may be imposed.

Only 8% of U.S. plastic is recycled. Micro-plastics are now found in our food, the water we drink, and the air we breathe. A study estimates that humans could be ingesting up to a credit card's worth of micro-plastics every week. The chemicals in plastic interfere with brain development and disrupt the hormone system and can cause cancer and birth defects."Greenhouse gas emissions from the plastic lifecycle threaten the ability of the global community to keep global temperature rise below 1.5 degrees Celsius.", states a report from the Center for International Environmental Law.



The League supports this bill because it believes that pollution of our resources should be controlled in order to preserve the physical, chemical and biological integrity of ecosystems and to protect public health. (LWVUS Natural Resources)