

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 771**

**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>Jack Patrick Lewis</i>	<i>7th Middlesex</i>
<i>Rebecca L. Rausch</i>	<i>Norfolk, Bristol and Middlesex</i>
<i>Tami L. Gouveia</i>	<i>14th Middlesex</i>
<i>Mike Connolly</i>	<i>26th Middlesex</i>
<i>Louis L. Kafka</i>	<i>8th Norfolk</i>
<i>Denise Provost</i>	<i>27th Middlesex</i>
<i>James Arciero</i>	<i>2nd Middlesex</i>
<i>Brian M. Ashe</i>	<i>2nd Hampden</i>
<i>Bruce J. Ayers</i>	<i>1st Norfolk</i>
<i>Ruth B. Balsler</i>	<i>12th Middlesex</i>
<i>Christine P. Barber</i>	<i>34th Middlesex</i>
<i>John Barrett, III</i>	<i>1st Berkshire</i>
<i>Michael J. Barrett</i>	<i>Third Middlesex</i>
<i>Jennifer E. Benson</i>	<i>37th Middlesex</i>
<i>Natalie M. Blais</i>	<i>1st Franklin</i>
<i>Paul Brodeur</i>	<i>32nd Middlesex</i>

<i>Antonio F. D. Cabral</i>	<i>13th Bristol</i>
<i>Tackey Chan</i>	<i>2nd Norfolk</i>
<i>Michelle L. Ciccolo</i>	<i>15th Middlesex</i>
<i>Edward F. Coppinger</i>	<i>10th Suffolk</i>
<i>Brendan P. Crighton</i>	<i>Third Essex</i>
<i>Daniel R. Cullinane</i>	<i>12th Suffolk</i>
<i>Josh S. Cutler</i>	<i>6th Plymouth</i>
<i>Julian Cyr</i>	<i>Cape and Islands</i>
<i>Michael S. Day</i>	<i>31st Middlesex</i>
<i>Marjorie C. Decker</i>	<i>25th Middlesex</i>
<i>Sal N. DiDomenico</i>	<i>Middlesex and Suffolk</i>
<i>Mindy Domb</i>	<i>3rd Hampshire</i>
<i>Paul J. Donato</i>	<i>35th Middlesex</i>
<i>Michelle M. DuBois</i>	<i>10th Plymouth</i>
<i>Carolyn C. Dykema</i>	<i>8th Middlesex</i>
<i>Nika C. Elugardo</i>	<i>15th Suffolk</i>
<i>Dylan A. Fernandes</i>	<i>Barnstable, Dukes and Nantucket</i>
<i>Carole A. Fiola</i>	<i>6th Bristol</i>
<i>Sean Garballey</i>	<i>23rd Middlesex</i>
<i>Denise C. Garlick</i>	<i>13th Norfolk</i>
<i>Carmine Lawrence Gentile</i>	<i>13th Middlesex</i>
<i>Carlos Gonzalez</i>	<i>10th Hampden</i>
<i>Kenneth I. Gordon</i>	<i>21st Middlesex</i>
<i>Danielle W. Gregoire</i>	<i>4th Middlesex</i>
<i>James K. Hawkins</i>	<i>2nd Bristol</i>
<i>Stephan Hay</i>	<i>3rd Worcester</i>
<i>Jonathan Hecht</i>	<i>29th Middlesex</i>
<i>Natalie M. Higgins</i>	<i>4th Worcester</i>
<i>Bradford Hill</i>	<i>4th Essex</i>
<i>Kate Hogan</i>	<i>3rd Middlesex</i>
<i>Russell E. Holmes</i>	<i>6th Suffolk</i>
<i>Patricia D. Jehlen</i>	<i>Second Middlesex</i>
<i>Hannah Kane</i>	<i>11th Worcester</i>
<i>Patrick Joseph Kearney</i>	<i>4th Plymouth</i>
<i>Mary S. Keefe</i>	<i>15th Worcester</i>
<i>Kay Khan</i>	<i>11th Middlesex</i>
<i>Kathleen R. LaNatra</i>	<i>12th Plymouth</i>
<i>John J. Lawn, Jr.</i>	<i>10th Middlesex</i>
<i>David Henry Argosky LeBoeuf</i>	<i>17th Worcester</i>

<i>Jason M. Lewis</i>	<i>Fifth Middlesex</i>
<i>Jay D. Livingstone</i>	<i>8th Suffolk</i>
<i>Joan B. Lovely</i>	<i>Second Essex</i>
<i>Adrian C. Madaro</i>	<i>1st Suffolk</i>
<i>Elizabeth A. Malia</i>	<i>11th Suffolk</i>
<i>Paul W. Mark</i>	<i>2nd Berkshire</i>
<i>Paul McMurtry</i>	<i>11th Norfolk</i>
<i>Joan Meschino</i>	<i>3rd Plymouth</i>
<i>Christina A. Minicucci</i>	<i>14th Essex</i>
<i>Liz Miranda</i>	<i>5th Suffolk</i>
<i>Mathew J. Muratore</i>	<i>1st Plymouth</i>
<i>Brian W. Murray</i>	<i>10th Worcester</i>
<i>Tram T. Nguyen</i>	<i>18th Essex</i>
<i>Patrick M. O'Connor</i>	<i>Plymouth and Norfolk</i>
<i>Sarah K. Peake</i>	<i>4th Barnstable</i>
<i>Alice Hanlon Peisch</i>	<i>14th Norfolk</i>
<i>Elizabeth A. Poirier</i>	<i>14th Bristol</i>
<i>David Allen Robertson</i>	<i>19th Middlesex</i>
<i>Maria Duaine Robinson</i>	<i>6th Middlesex</i>
<i>David M. Rogers</i>	<i>24th Middlesex</i>
<i>Daniel J. Ryan</i>	<i>2nd Suffolk</i>
<i>Lindsay N. Sabadosa</i>	<i>1st Hampshire</i>
<i>Jon Santiago</i>	<i>9th Suffolk</i>
<i>Thomas M. Stanley</i>	<i>9th Middlesex</i>
<i>José F. Tosado</i>	<i>9th Hampden</i>
<i>Paul F. Tucker</i>	<i>7th Essex</i>
<i>Steven Ultrino</i>	<i>33rd Middlesex</i>
<i>Aaron Vega</i>	<i>5th Hampden</i>
<i>RoseLee Vincent</i>	<i>16th Suffolk</i>
<i>Tommy Vitolo</i>	<i>15th Norfolk</i>
<i>Thomas P. Walsh</i>	<i>12th Essex</i>
<i>Susannah M. Whipps</i>	<i>2nd Franklin</i>

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 771**

relative to plastic bag pollution

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

**In the One Hundred and Ninety-First General Court  
(2019-2020)**

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 paper bag provided  
23 by a pharmacy to a customer purchasing a prescription medication; (ii) a non-handled bag used  
24 to protect items from damaging or contaminating other purchased items placed in a recycled  
25 paper bag, a reusable grocery bag; (iii) a bag provided to contain an unwrapped food item; or (iv)  
26 a non-handled bag that is designed to be placed over articles of clothing on a hanger.

27 "Store", a retail establishment, person, corporation, partnership, business venture, or  
28 vendor that sells or provides merchandise, goods or materials directly to a customer, whether for  
29 or not for profit, including but not limited to restaurants, pharmacies, convenience and grocery  
30 stores, liquor stores, seasonal and temporary businesses, farmers markets, public markets,  
31 jewelry stores, and household goods stores, provided however, the term store does not include  
32 bazaars, fairs or festivals operated by nonprofit organizations or religious institutions

33 Section 2. (a) Except as provided in this section on and after August 1, 2019, a store shall  
34 not provide a single-use carryout bag to a customer at the point of sale.

35 (b) From the date of enactment until August 1, 2019, a store may make available for  
36 purchase at the point of sale a single-use carryout bag, reusable grocery bag, or recycled paper  
37 bag. A store that makes single-use carryout bags or recycled paper bags available for purchase  
38 prior to August 1, 2019 shall sell the single-use carryout bag or recycled paper bag for \$0.10.

39 (c) On and after August 1, 2019, a store shall make available for purchase a recycled  
40 paper bag, for a charge of \$0.10.

41 (d) On and after August 1, 2019, 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 null and void on August 1, 2019.