On Thursday, June 20, 2024, the Massachusetts Senate will take up and debate legislation to reduce plastics usage and plastic waste in Massachusetts. The bill would:

**Prohibit all carry-out plastic bags at checkout from retail stores.**
- Requires retailers to charge 10 cents for a recycled paper bag or a non-plastic reusable bag at checkout.
- 5 cents of the fee would be expended on environmental protection measures across the Commonwealth.
- Allows the retailer to keep the remainder of the fee to recoup the costs of providing paper bags.

*This is the second time the Senate has led the way on banning plastic bags.* The first time the Senate passed this policy was in 2019. Roughly half of Massachusetts communities currently prohibit plastic bags.

**Make straws and plasticware available by request only.** Prevents disposable food service ware and straws from automatically being given to customers when they buy food or beverage products.

**Prohibit state purchases of plastic bottles.** Prohibits state agencies from purchasing single-use plastic bottles.

**Increase Statewide Bulk Plastic Recycling.** Creates a statewide program for the recycling of large plastic objects, such as car seats.

**More effectively label non-flushable wipes.**
- Requires non-flushable wipes to be clearly labeled with “Do Not Flush” warnings to prevent disruptions to the Commonwealth’s sewer system.
- Creates a new public awareness program to educate consumers on the dangers of flushing non-flushable wipes.
- The Massachusetts Association of Land Surveyors and Civil Engineers has estimated that Massachusetts faces around $10 million in avoidable costs every year fixing problems directly caused by the flushing of these non-flushable wipes.
Office of Senate President Karen E. Spilka
June 17, 2024

**Creates a composting report.** Directs the Department of Environmental Protection to submit a report on the Commonwealth’s progress toward expanding access to composting across the Commonwealth.

**Creates a Producer Responsibility Commission.** Establishes a new commission to make recommendations on ways in which the state can encourage or require businesses to support recycling of efforts for the products that they produce.

**MEDIA CONTACT**

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