

**ASSEMBLY CONCURRENT
RESOLUTION No. 197**

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY
218th LEGISLATURE**

INTRODUCED OCTOBER 22, 2018

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman NANCY J. PINKIN

District 18 (Middlesex)

Assemblywoman VALERIE VAINIERI HUTTLE

District 37 (Bergen)

Assemblywoman CAROL A. MURPHY

District 7 (Burlington)

Co-Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman Swain and Assemblyman Kennedy

SYNOPSIS

Urges DEP and EDA to establish plastics recycling marketplace.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 1/16/2019)

1 **A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION** urging the Department of
2 Environmental Protection and the Economic Development
3 Authority to establish a plastics recycling marketplace.
4
5 **WHEREAS**, Single-use plastics are defined as plastic packaging and
6 other consumer products made out of plastic that are designed to be
7 used once and thrown away after a brief use, and include bottles,
8 cups, plastic lids, bags, plates, utensils, straws, stirrers, swabs, food
9 containers, plastic film wraps, and plastic packaging; and
10 **WHEREAS**, Americans purchase 50 billion water bottles per year,
11 averaging 13 bottles per month per person; and
12 **WHEREAS**, Additionally, 100 billion plastic bags and 25 billion
13 styrofoam plastic coffee cups are thrown away by Americans each
14 year, which averages to 307 plastic bags and 77 cups per person per
15 year; and
16 **WHEREAS**, Not all single-use plastic waste reaches landfills,
17 permanent disposal facilities, or is recycled; and
18 **WHEREAS**, New Jersey's current post-consumer plastics recycling
19 rates vary between six to nine percent, however, although some
20 calculations indicate recycling rates maybe around 13 percent; and
21 **WHEREAS**, Mismanaged single-use plastic waste may block drainage
22 systems, release toxic fumes if burned, become land pollution, and
23 contaminate the food chain; and
24 **WHEREAS**, Further, unrecycled plastics are disposed of in landfills,
25 dumpsites, incinerators, or end up in waterways and oceans where
26 they will remain for hundreds or even thousands of years; and
27 **WHEREAS**, Furthermore, plastic released in the environment typically
28 does not biodegrade, but instead breaks into smaller pieces, called
29 microplastics, which continue to accumulate in the natural
30 environment; and
31 **WHEREAS**, There is evidence that microplastic pollution can move
32 through natural food webs and accumulate in fin fish and shellfish
33 tissues, which means microplastics and associated pollutants have
34 the potential to move into the human food chain; and
35 **WHEREAS**, The accumulation of single-use plastics in our environment
36 is dangerous for the residents of this State, marine wildlife, and the
37 environment, creates visual pollution, and impacts tourism, fishing,
38 and shipping industries; and
39 **WHEREAS**, Efficient research needs to be conducted for the
40 development of technologies to reuse or transform single-use
41 plastic waste into useful products and create a marketplace for the
42 massive volume of single-use plastics; and
43 **WHEREAS**, It is imperative to develop a single-use plastics recycling
44 marketplace in order to divert single use plastics from our
45 environment, including from our oceans and landfills; now,
46 therefore,

1 **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the General Assembly of the State of New*
2 *Jersey (the Senate concurring):*

3
4 1. The Legislature respectfully urges the Department of
5 Environmental Protection to utilize monies from the State
6 Recycling Fund, established pursuant to section 5 of P.L.1981,
7 c.278 (C.13:1E-96), to conduct the necessary research for the
8 development of a plastics recycling marketplace in the State in
9 order to increase the volume of single-use plastics being recycled in
10 the State and decrease the amount of these plastics from entering
11 into our natural environment.

12
13 2. The Legislature respectfully urges the New Jersey Economic
14 Development Authority to take steps to encourage and provide
15 funding to establish a plastics recycling marketplace in the State in
16 order to reduce the presence of single-use plastics in our natural
17 environment.

18
19 3. Copies of this resolution, as filed with the Secretary of State,
20 shall be transmitted by the Clerk of the General Assembly or the
21 Secretary of the Senate to the Governor, the Commissioner of
22 Environmental Protection, and to the Chief Executive Officer of the
23 New Jersey Economic Development Authority.

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STATEMENT

27

28 This concurrent resolution respectfully urges the Department of
29 Environmental Protection to utilize monies from the State
30 Recycling Fund to conduct the necessary research for the
31 development of a plastics recycling marketplace in the State in
32 order to increase the volume of single-use plastics being recycled in
33 the State and decrease the amount of these plastics from entering
34 into our natural environment. In addition, the Legislature
35 respectfully urges the New Jersey Economic Development
36 Authority to take steps to encourage and provide funding to
37 establish a plastics recycling marketplace in the State in order to
38 reduce the presence of single-use plastics in our natural
39 environment.

40 Single-use plastics are defined as plastic packaging and other
41 consumer products made out of plastic that are designed to be used
42 once and thrown away after a brief use, and include bottles, cups,
43 plastic lids, bags, plates, utensils, straws, stirrers, swabs, food
44 containers, plastic film wraps, and plastic packaging. Americans
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46 month per person. Additionally, 100 billion plastic bags and 25 billion
47 styrofoam plastic coffee cups are thrown away by Americans each
48 year, which averages to 307 plastic bags and 77 cups per person per

1 year. Not all single-use plastic waste reaches landfills, permanent
2 disposal facilities, or is recycled.

3 New Jersey's current post-consumer plastics recycling rates vary
4 between six to nine percent, however, although some calculations
5 indicate recycling rates maybe around 13 percent. Mismanaged
6 single-use plastic waste may block drainage systems, release toxic
7 fumes if burned, become land pollution, and contaminate the food
8 chain. Further, unrecycled plastics are disposed of in landfills,
9 dumpsites, incinerators, or end up in waterways and oceans where they
10 will remain for hundreds or even thousands of years. Furthermore,
11 plastic released in the environment typically does not biodegrade, but
12 instead breaks into smaller pieces, called microplastics, which
13 continue to accumulate in the natural environment. There is evidence
14 that microplastic pollution can move through natural food webs and
15 accumulate in fin fish and shellfish tissues, which means microplastics
16 and associated pollutants have the potential to move into the human
17 food chain. The accumulation of single-use plastics in our
18 environment is dangerous for the residents of this State, marine
19 wildlife, and the environment, creates visual pollution, and impacts
20 tourism, fishing, and shipping industries.