ASSEMBLY CONCURRENT RESOLUTION No. 197

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

218th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED OCTOBER 22, 2018

Sponsored by:

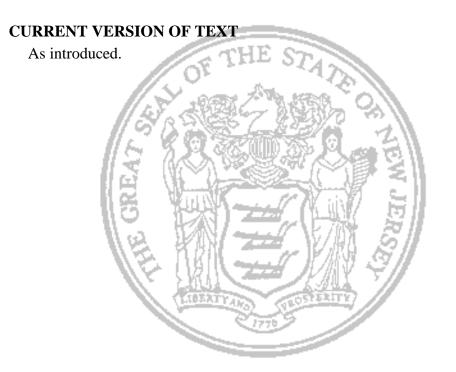
Assemblywoman NANCY J. PINKIN
District 18 (Middlesex)
Assemblywoman VALERIE VAINIERI HUTTLE
District 37 (Bergen)
Assemblywoman CAROL A. MURPHY
District 7 (Burlington)

Co-Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman Swain and Assemblyman Kennedy

SYNOPSIS

Urges DEP and EDA to establish plastics recycling marketplace.



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

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1	A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION urging the Department of
2	Environmental Protection and the Economic Development
3	Authority to establish a plastics recycling marketplace.
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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

WHEREAS, It is imperative to develop a single-use plastics recycling marketplace in order to divert single use plastics from our environment, including from our oceans and landfills; now, therefore,

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

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

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

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

STATEMENT

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

Single-use plastics are defined as plastic packaging and other consumer products made out of plastic that are designed to be used once and thrown away after a brief use, and include bottles, cups, plastic lids, bags, plates, utensils, straws, stirrers, swabs, food containers, plastic film wraps, and plastic packaging. Americans purchase 50 billion water bottles per year, an averaging 13 bottles per month per person. Additionally, 100 billion plastic bags and 25 billion styrofoam plastic coffee cups are thrown away by Americans each year, which averages to 307 plastic bags and 77 cups per person per

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

3 New Jersey's current post-consumer plastics recycling rates vary between six to nine percent, however, although some calculations 4 5 indicate recycling rates maybe around 13 percent. 6 single-use plastic waste may block drainage systems, release toxic 7 fumes if burned, become land pollution, and contaminate the food 8 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.