

# RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL

No. 263

Approved June 10, 2021

WHEREAS, Eight million tons of plastic end up in the ocean every year, including plastic straws which harm marine ecosystems and represent the seventh most collected item of beach litter; and

WHEREAS, Although disposable plastic straws are only used for an average of 20 minutes before being discarded, they can take as much as 200 years before they biodegrade; and

WHEREAS, Single-use plastics were identified as one of the largest contributors to marine plastic pollution, which is why Earth Day 2018 focused on a global effort for ending plastic pollution; and

WHEREAS, As the Ocean State, Rhode Island's economy relies heavily on our marine environment and a statewide plastic straw reduction effort is vital to maintaining the health and well-being of our marine ecosystems; and

WHEREAS, The issue of single use plastic waste is of major concern to the Providence City Council which is why, in April of 2019, the council passed the Retail Plastic Bag Reduction Act banning the use of single use plastic bags in the City; and

WHEREAS, Senate Bill S-155 aims to address the single use plastic straw issue by prohibiting food service establishments from serving single-use plastic straws unless specifically requested by the consumer; and



WHEREAS, Senate Bill S-155 was passed by the Rhode Island Senate on May 4, 2021 and has been referred to the House Committee on Environment and Natural Resources; and

WHEREAS, It is in the best interests of the health, safety and welfare of citizens of and visitors to Rhode Island to protect our environment and our natural resources by reducing the distribution of single-use plastic straws.

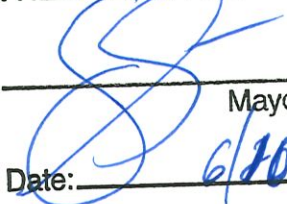
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Members of the Providence City Council hereby endorse and urge Passage by the Rhode Island House of Representatives of Senate Bill S-155, An Act Relating to Food and Drugs - Single-Use Plastic Straws Act.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That upon passage, copies of this resolution be sent to the members of the Providence Delegation, and the Speaker of the House.

IN CITY COUNCIL  
JUN 03 2021  
READ AND PASSED

  
JOHN J. IGLIZZI, PRESIDENT  
  
CLERK

I HEREBY APPROVE.

  
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Mayor  
Date: 6/10/21

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2021

A N A C T

RELATING TO FOOD AND DRUGS -- SINGLE-USE PLASTIC STRAWS

Introduced By: Senators McCaffrey, Goodwin, Ruggerio, Miller, Euer, Kallman,  
Lombardo, Valverde, DiMario, and DiPalma

Date Introduced: February 05, 2021

Referred To: Senate Environment & Agriculture

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1           SECTION 1. Title 21 of the General Laws entitled "FOOD AND DRUGS" is hereby  
2 amended by adding thereto the following chapter:

3                               CHAPTER 27.2

4                               SINGLE-USE PLASTIC STRAWS

5           **21-27.2-1. Definitions.**

6           As used in this chapter:

7           (1) "Food service establishment" shall have the meaning set forth in § 21-27-1.

8           (2) "Single-use plastic straw" means a single-use, disposable tube made predominantly of  
9 plastic derived from either petroleum or a biologically based polymer, such as corn or other plant  
10 sources, used to transfer a beverage from a container to the mouth of the person drinking the  
11 beverage. "Single-use plastic straw" does not include a straw made from non-plastic materials,  
12 including, but not limited to, paper, pasta, sugar cane, wood, or bamboo.

13           **21-27.2-2. Prohibited practices exception.**

14           A food service establishment shall not provide a single-use plastic straw to a consumer  
15 unless requested by the consumer.

16           **21-27.2-3. Penalties.**

17           The first and second violations of this chapter shall result in a notice of violation, and any  
18 subsequent violation shall be punishable by a fine of twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) for each violation  
19 by the service establishment, but not to exceed three hundred dollars (\$300) annually.

1        **21-27.2-4. Enforcement.**

2        The director of health shall promulgate and adopt such rules and regulations as may be  
3        necessary to enforce the provisions of this chapter.

4        SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF  
A N A C T  
RELATING TO FOOD AND DRUGS -- SINGLE-USE PLASTIC STRAWS

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1           This act would prohibit a food service establishment from providing a consumer with a  
2   single-use plastic straw, unless the consumer requests such a straw. The first and second violation  
3   of this statute would result in a notice of violation, and any subsequent violations would be  
4   punishable by a fine of twenty-five dollars (\$25.00), not to exceed three hundred dollars (\$300)  
5   annually.

6           This act would take effect upon passage.

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