

# RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL

No. 104

Approved March 11, 2021

WHEREAS, Perfluorinated and poly-fluorinated Alkyl Substances (PFAS) are highly persistent chemicals that are transported long distances in the environment; and

WHEREAS, United States manufacturers have voluntarily worked to reduce releases of long-chain PFAS due to their toxic effects on human health; and

WHEREAS, The PFAS with fewer than eight (8) carbon-fluorine bonds currently being used as alternatives to PFOA and PFOS are also highly persistent and subject to long-range transport; and

WHEREAS, These alternative PFAS have similar potential for harm as the long-chain PFAS; and

WHEREAS, Over two hundred (200) scientists from all over the world have signed a statement calling for governments to limit the use of PFAS while studies determine the safety of these chemicals, given their persistence in the environment, potential for harm, and lack of adequate data proving safety; and

WHEREAS, Food packaging contains pfas in order to resist grease and other fats from sticking to the paper packaging; and

WHEREAS, House Bill 2021 H-5356 and Senate Bill 2021 S-0110 eliminate the manufacture, sale, and distribution for use in the state food packaging to which PFAS have been intentionally added in any amount.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the City Council of the City of Providence endorses and urges passage by the Rhode Island house of Representatives of House Bill 5356, An Act Relating to Health and Safety-PFAS in Food Packaging.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the City Council of the City of Providence endorse and urges passage by the Rhode Island Senate of Senate Bill 0110, An Act Relating to Health and Safety-PFAS in Food Packaging.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, That upon passage, copies of this resolution be sent to the Providence Delegation to the General Assembly, House Leadership, Senate Leadership, the House Committee on the Environment and Natural Resources, and the Senate Committee on Health and Human Services.

IN CITY COUNCIL


MAR 4 2021

READ AND PASSED

  
PRES.

  
CLERK

I HEREBY APPROVE.

  
Mayor  
Date: 3/11/21

## JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2021

(4) Over two hundred (200) scientists from all over the world have signed a statement calling for governments to limit the use of PFAS while studies determine the safety of these chemicals, given their persistence in the environment, potential for harm, and lack of adequate data

1 proving safety.

2 (5) Food packaging contains PFAS in order to resist grease and other fats from sticking to  
3 the paper packaging.

4 (6) Alternatives are already in use in food packaging.

5 **23-25.6-3. Definitions.**

6 As used in this chapter:

7 (1) "Food package" means a package or packaging component that is intended for the  
8 marketing, protection, or handling of a product intended for food contact or used to store food and  
9 foodstuffs for sale.

10 (2) "Manufacturer" means a person, firm, association, partnership, government entity,  
11 organization, joint venture, or corporation that applies a package to a product for distribution or  
12 sale.

13 (3) "Package" means a container providing a means of marketing, protecting, or handling  
14 a product and shall include a unit package, an intermediate package, and a shipping container.  
15 "Package" also means and includes unsealed receptacles such as carrying cases, crates, cups, pails,  
16 rigid foil and other trays, wrappers and wrapping films, bags, and tubs.

17 (4) "Packaging component" means an individual assembled part of a package such as, but  
18 not limited to, any interior or exterior blocking, bracing, cushioning, weatherproofing, exterior  
19 strapping, coatings, closures, inks, and labels.

20 (5) "PFAS" means perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances, a class of fluorinated  
21 organic chemicals containing at least one fully fluorinated carbon atom.

22 **23-25.6-4. Prohibition of PFAS in food packaging.**

23 No person may manufacture, knowingly sell, offer for sale, distribute for sale, or distribute  
24 for use in this state food packaging to which PFAS have been intentionally added in any amount.

25 **23-25.6-5. Penalties.**

26 Any person who violates any provisions of this chapter shall be subject to a fine of not  
27 more than one thousand dollars (\$1,000) for each offense.

28 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect on January 1, 2022.

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LC000479  
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EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF  
A N A C T  
RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY - PFAS IN FOOD PACKAGING

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- 1           This act would prohibit PFAS, a class of fluorinated organic chemicals, from being used  
2   in food packaging.  
3           This act would take effect on January 1, 2022.

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LC000479  
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LC000496

## JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2021

## RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY - PFAS IN FOOD PACKAGING

Referred To: Senate Health & Human Services

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