

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No Revenue Impact

Action Date: 04/14/15

Action: Do Pass As Amended And Be Printed Engrossed.

Meeting Dates: 03/10, 04/14

Vote:

Yeas: 8 - Bentz, Boone, Heard, Helm, Holvey, Johnson, Reardon, Vega Pederson

Exc: 1 - Weidner

Prepared By: Beth Patrino, Committee Administrator

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Effective July 1, 2021, prohibits school district that provides breakfast or lunch at school site from using polystyrene foam plates, trays, food containers or food packaging. Allows school district to use polystyrene foam in meal service if district participates in recycling program for foam. Directs Department of Education to provide extension for school district able to show financial hardship experienced from complying with prohibition on use of polystyrene materials. Directs school district using polystyrene in meal service during 2014-2015 school year to establish plan to comply with measure. Declares emergency, effective July 1, 2015.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Polystyrene ban enacted in New York City
- Potential costs to school districts to use different materials
- Available alternatives to polystyrene

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:

Allows school district to use polystyrene foam in meal service if district participates in recycling program for foam. Directs Department of Education to provide extension for school district able to show financial hardship experienced from complying with prohibition on use of polystyrene materials.

BACKGROUND:

Polystyrene is a thermoplastic material made from petroleum-derived styrene. Polystyrene can be made into both foam and rigid products. It is one of the most common types of plastic and is used to produce disposable plastic cutlery, dinnerware and in products used to keep hot and cold foods at desired temperatures. House Bill 2762A would prohibit a school district providing meals using polystyrene foam plates, trays, containers or packaging after July 1, 2021. The measure allows the use of such materials if the district participates in a foam recycling program and also directs the Department of Education to allow an extension for districts able to show a financial hardship from compliance with the prohibition.