

SB 551 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Energy and Environment

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Meeting Dates: 2/12

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Modifies definition of "single-use checkout bag" to no longer include a reusable plastic checkout bag. Prohibits retailers and restaurants, as of July 1, 2026, from providing **reusable plastic checkout bags** to customers.

Prohibits a food and beverage provider or convenience store, as of Jul1 1, 2026, from providing **single-use plastic utensil or single-use condiment packaging** to consumer unless requested.

Prohibits, as of January 1, 2027, a lodging establishment from providing, **personal health or beauty product** in a small plastic personal health or beauty container, plastic wrapper, or any other single-use , unless requested. Provides authority to Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) to enter and inspect any public or private property, premises, or place for the purpose of investigating actual or suspected violation of provisions of Act related to personal health or beauty products. Authorizes DEQ to issue order requiring compliance. Stipulates before issuing civil penalty DEQ must issue written notice to lodging establishment found to have violated Act.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

In 2019, the Legislative Assembly enacted House Bill 2509 which prohibited retail establishments and restaurants from providing single-use checkout bags to customers. Under current law retail establishments are authorized to provide recycled paper, checkout bags reusable fabric bags, or reusable plastic checkout bags if they charge a fee no less than five cents. Senate Bill 551 would remove plastic checkout bags from the allowable types of bags that a retail establishment could provide for no less than five cents.

In addition, the Legislative Assembly enacted Senate Bill 90 in 2019 which prohibited a food and beverage provider or a convenience store from providing a single-use plastic straw unless requested by the consumer. Senate Bill 551 would expand that requirement to include single-use plastic utensils or single-use condiment packages. The Act would also require lodging establishments to provide small plastic personal health or beauty product only upon request.