

# STATE OF NEW YORK

1866

2017-2018 Regular Sessions

## IN ASSEMBLY

January 13, 2017

Introduced by M. of A. ABINANTI -- read once and referred to the Committee on Consumer Affairs and Protection

AN ACT to amend the general business law, in relation to prohibiting the use of polystyrene containers by restaurants and food vendors

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

Section 1. The general business law is amended by adding a new section 399-eee to read as follows:

§ 399-eee. Prohibiting the use of polystyrene containers by restaurants, food trucks, and other food vendors. 1. Definitions. The following terms shall have the following meanings as used in this section:

(a) "polystyrene" or "polystyrene foam" means blown polystyrene and expanded foams utilizing a styrene monomer and processed by any number of techniques. Polystyrene foam is generally used to make cups, bowls, plates, trays, clamshell containers, meat trays and egg cartons.

(b) "food service establishment" means any area, including outdoor seating areas, in which the business is the sale of food for on-premises consumption.

(c) "food vendor" means any store, shop, sales outlet, or other establishment, including a grocery store, delicatessen or restaurant that sells prepared foods.

(d) "disposable food service ware" means all containers, bowls, plates, trays, cartons, cups, lids, and other items that are designed for one-time use for prepared foods, including without limitation, service ware takeout foods and/or leftovers from partially consumed meals prepared by food service establishments, food vendors, and/or mobile food service establishments.

(e) "mobile food service establishment" means a self-contained food service operation, located in a vehicle or a movable stand, self or otherwise propelled, used to store, prepare, display or serve food intended for individual portion service.

EXPLANATION--Matter in italics (underscored) is new; matter in brackets [-] is old law to be omitted.

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1     2. Use of polystyrene disposable food service ware prohibited. No food  
2 service establishment, food vendor, or mobile food service establishment  
3 shall use polystyrene disposable food service ware for the packaging of  
4 food or drink to be taken from such food service establishment, food  
5 vendor, or mobile food service establishment by patrons.

6     3. Enforcement and violations. (a) Whenever there shall be a violation  
7 of this section, application may be made by the attorney general in the  
8 name of the people of the state of New York to a court or justice having  
9 jurisdiction by a special proceeding to issue an injunction, and upon  
10 notice to the defendant of not less than five days, to enjoin and  
11 restrain the continuance of such violation; and if it shall appear to  
12 the satisfaction of the court or justice that the defendant has, in  
13 fact, violated this section, an injunction may be issued by such court  
14 or justice, enjoining and restraining any further violation, without  
15 requiring proof that any person has, in fact, been injured or damaged  
16 thereby. In connection with any such proposed application, the attorney  
17 general is authorized to take proof and make a determination of the  
18 relevant facts and to issue subpoenas in accordance with the civil prac-  
19 tice law and rules.

20     (b) Any person who violates this section shall be subject to a civil  
21 penalty of not more than five hundred dollars for each violation. Each  
22 day in which a food service establishment, food vendor, or mobile food  
23 service establishment uses polystyrene disposable food service ware in  
24 violation of this section may constitute a separate violation.

25     (c) In addition, the district attorney, county attorney, and the  
26 corporation counsel shall have concurrent authority to seek the relief  
27 in paragraph (b) of this subdivision, and all civil penalties obtained  
28 in any such action shall be retained by the municipality or county.

29     § 2. This act shall take effect on the one hundred eightieth day after  
30 it shall have become a law.