

STATE OF NEW YORK

4603

2019-2020 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

February 4, 2019

Introduced by M. of A. ROZIC, PAULIN, LUPARDO, COLTON, ENGLEBRIGHT, GALEF, L. ROSENTHAL, OTIS, ABINANTI, FAHY, STIRPE, LIFTON, SIMOTAS, WEPRIN, GOTTFRIED, SIMON -- Multi-Sponsored by -- M. of A. COOK, DINOWITZ, GLICK, PERRY, THIELE -- read once and referred to the Committee on Environmental Conservation

AN ACT to amend the environmental conservation law, in relation to food service waste reduction

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

Section 1. Short title. This act shall be known and may be cited as the "food service waste reduction act".

§ 2. Article 27 of the environmental conservation law is amended by adding a new title 28 to read as follows:

TITLE 28

FOOD SERVICE WASTE REDUCTION

Section 27-2801. Definitions.

27-2803. Required compostable or recyclable disposable food service ware.

27-2805. Powers of municipalities.

§ 27-2801. Definitions.

For the purposes of this title, the following terms shall have the following meanings:

1. "Affordable" means purchasable for not more than fifteen percent more than the purchase cost of the non-compostable or non-recyclable alternative.

2. "Agency" means any state department, agency, board, public benefit corporation, public authority, or commission.

3. "Compostable" means all the materials in the product or package will (a) undergo degradation by biological processes during composting to yield carbon dioxide, water, inorganic compounds, and biomass at a rate consistent with other known compostable materials and (b) leave no

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

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1 visible, distinguishable or toxic residue, including no adverse impact
2 on the ability of composts to support plant growth once the finished
3 compost is placed in soil.

4 4. "Contractors and lessees" mean any person or entity that has a
5 contract with an agency or a municipality for public works or improve-
6 ments to be performed, for a franchise, concession or lease of property,
7 for grant monies or goods and services or supplies to be purchased at
8 the expense of the agency or municipality or to be paid out of monies
9 deposited in the treasury or out of trust monies under the control or
10 collected by the agency or municipality.

11 5. "Disposable food service ware" means all containers, bowls, plates,
12 trays, cartons, cups, lids, straws, forks, spoons, knives, napkins and
13 other items that are designed for one-time use for prepared foods,
14 including without limitation, service ware for takeout foods and/or
15 leftovers from partially consumed meals prepared by food vendors. The
16 term "disposable food service ware" does not include items composed
17 entirely of aluminum or polystyrene foam coolers and ice chests that are
18 intended for reuse nor does this term include recyclable food service
19 ware.

20 6. "Municipality" means a village, town, city, or county, or any
21 designated agency thereof.

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

26 8. "Recyclable" means material that can be sorted, cleansed and recon-
27 stituted using available recycling collection programs for the purpose
28 of using the altered form in the manufacture of a new product. Recycling
29 does not include burning, incinerating, converting, or otherwise ther-
30 mally destroying solid waste.

31 § 27-2803. Required compostable or recyclable disposable food service
32 ware.

33 Agencies, municipalities, and their contractors and lessees shall use
34 disposable food service ware made from material, other than polystyrene
35 foam, that is compostable or recyclable unless there is no affordable
36 compostable or recyclable product available. Nothing in this section
37 shall be construed to govern the activities of contractors and lessees
38 that occur outside of the state or activities of contractors of lessees
39 that occur with entities other than agencies or municipalities.

40 § 27-2805. Powers of municipalities.

41 Any agency or municipality may promulgate regulations, ordinances, or
42 laws to take any and all reasonable actions necessary to implement and
43 enforce this title.

44 § 3. The department of environmental conservation shall conduct a
45 study on the desirability, feasibility and environmental impact of a
46 statewide prohibition on the use of disposable food service ware that
47 contains polystyrene foam. The department shall issue a report contain-
48 ing the results of the study to the legislature no later than the thir-
49 ty-first of January next succeeding the date on which this act shall
50 have become a law.

51 § 4. This act shall take effect immediately; provided, however, that
52 sections one and two of this act shall take effect on the one hundred
53 twentieth day after it shall have become a law.