STATE OF NEW YORK

1505--A

2021-2022 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

January 12, 2021

Introduced by Sens. HOYLMAN, BIAGGI, KRUEGER, SALAZAR, SEPULVEDA, SERRANO -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Environmental Conservation -- recommitted to the Committee on Environmental Conservation in accordance with Senate Rule 6, sec. 8 -- committee discharged, bill amended, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee

AN ACT to amend the environmental conservation law and the general business law, in relation to prohibitions on single-use plastic straws and stirrers in restaurants

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

Section 1. Article 27 of the environmental conservation law is amended by adding a new title 33 to read as follows:

TITLE 33

PLASTIC STRAW AND STIRRER RESTRICTIONS

Section 27-3301. Definitions.
27-3303. Single-use plastic straws and stirrers.
27-3305. Enforcement.

§ 27-3301. Definitions.

For the purposes of this title, "restaurant" means any diner or other eating or beverage establishment, which offers for sale food or beverages to the public, guests, members, or patrons, whether consumption occurs on or off the premises.

§ 27-3303. Single-use plastic straws and stirrers.

1. (a) Restaurants may not provide single-use plastic straws unless explicitly requested by the customer.

(b) No inquiry into the reason for the request shall be made by a restaurant or any of its employees in carrying out the request authorized by paragraph (a) of this subdivision.

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

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2. Restaurants are prohibited from providing customers with single-use plastic stirrers.

3. (a) Nothing in this section shall preclude a restaurant from providing customers with non-plastic straws or stirrers as an alternative to single-use plastic straws and stirrers, including, but not limited to, straws and/or stirrers made from paper, sugar cane, bamboo or compostable materials.

(b) Restaurants that provide compostable straws or stirrers to customers are required to have access to curbside collection of food waste for composting.

4. Single-use plastic straws provided by a restaurant, pursuant to subdivision one of this section, shall not be individually wrapped in plastic, except for prepackaged individual serving beverages where a plastic straw is included in the packaging.

§ 27-3305. Enforcement.

Every local department of health shall ensure compliance with this title as part of an inspection of a food place pursuant to section thirteen hundred fifty-one of the public health law, the provisions of the sanitary code and provisions of local ordinances or regulations. Any establishment that violates this title shall be liable for a civil penalty in the amount of two hundred dollars for the first violation, three hundred dollars for the second violation committed on a different day within a period of twelve months, and five hundred dollars for the third and each subsequent violation committed on different days within a period of twelve months, except that the local department of health shall not issue a notice of violation, but shall issue a warning and provide information on compliance with such section, for any violation that occurs within one year of the effective date of this section.

§ 2. The general business law is amended by adding a new section 399-tt to read as follows:

§ 399-tt. Single-use plastic straws. Restaurants may only provide single-use plastic straws to customers where explicitly requested by the customer pursuant to title thirty-three of article twenty-seven of the environmental conservation law.

§ 3. This act shall take effect on the one hundred twentieth day after it shall have become a law.