

Vermont Legislative Joint Fiscal Office

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FISCAL NOTE

Date: October 25, 2019
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S.113 (Act 69) An act relating to the prohibition of plastic carryout bags, expanded polystyrene, and single-use plastic straws – As Passed by the General Assembly

<https://legislature.vermont.gov/Documents/2020/Docs/ACTS/ACT069/ACT069%20As%20Enacted.pdf>

Bill Summary

The bill would ban stores and food service establishments from providing the following items to customers starting on July 1, 2020:

- Single-use plastic carryout bags
- Single-use plastic straws - with the following exceptions:
 - Unless requested by customer
 - Excluding certain facilities as defined in the bill
- Single-use plastic stirrers
- Expanded polystyrene food service products

Stores and food service establishments would be authorized to provide single-use, recyclable paper carryout bags in lieu of plastic. Stores would also be authorized to continue offering any excess inventory of the above items until July 1, 2021, so long as the inventory was purchased prior to May 15, 2019.

The bill would establish warnings and civil penalties for violators of the ban. The Secretary of the Agency of Natural Resources (ANR) would be granted rulemaking authority. Any municipal ordinances, bylaws or charters adopted prior to July 1, 2020 related to the provisions of this bill would be preempted by State law.

A working group would be established to study single-use products further and to make recommendations to the General Assembly on or before December 1, 2019. ANR would be required to study the feasibility of a second landfill in Vermont and include the study in the biennial report on solid waste, to be submitted in 2021.

Fiscal Impacts

Members of the working group who are eligible for per diem and expense reimbursements would be paid from legislative funds. The working group is authorized to meet no more than six times. There would be two legislative members and seven other members. Typically, non-legislative members of working groups/committees are only eligible for per diem and expense reimbursement if they are not otherwise compensated by their employer. **The cost of the working group would be approximately \$2,000 for legislative members and up to an additional \$2,000 for other members.** The FY20 legislative budget contains adequate funding to cover these costs.