
OLR Bill Analysis

sHB 5385

AN ACT REQUIRING THE ELIMINATION OF SINGLE-USE PLASTIC STRAWS.

SUMMARY

This bill prohibits the owner or operator of a full-service restaurant from providing a customer a single-use plastic straw unless the customer requests one. It explicitly requires the owner or operator to provide a single-use plastic straw to a person with a disability upon request.

Under the bill, an owner or operator who violates the bill's provisions must be issued a warning for a first or second violation and fined for a third or subsequent violation. The fine is \$25 for each day of violation, up to \$300 annually. A municipal health department or district health department with jurisdiction over the restaurant may enforce the bill's provisions.

Lastly, the bill states that it does not prevent a municipality from adopting and implementing an ordinance or rule to further restrict a full-service restaurant from providing customers single-use plastic straws. However, a municipal ordinance or rule cannot prohibit a restaurant owner or operator from providing a single-use plastic straw to a person with a disability.

EFFECTIVE DATE: January 1, 2020

DEFINITIONS

Full-service Restaurant

Under the bill, a "full-service restaurant" is an establishment that primarily serves food that may be consumed on the premises and where employees take all of the following actions:

1. escort or assign the customer to an assigned eating area,

2. take the customer's food and beverage order after he or she is seated,
3. deliver the order and any requested items directly to the customer, and
4. deliver the check directly to the customer at his or her assigned seating area.

Single-use Plastic Straw

Under the bill, a "single-use plastic straw" is a single-use, disposable tube made mostly of plastic derived from either petroleum or a biologically based polymer that is used to transfer beverage from a container to a person's mouth. It does not include a straw made from non-plastic materials, including paper, pasta, sugar cane, wood, metal, or bamboo.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Environment Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 22 Nay 6 (03/18/2019)