



Senate

General Assembly

File No. 563

January Session, 2019

Senate Bill No. 229

Senate, April 9, 2019

The Committee on Environment reported through SEN. COHEN of the 12th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the bill ought to pass.

AN ACT PROHIBITING THE USE OF STYROFOAM TRAYS IN CONNECTICUT SCHOOLS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) On and after the effective
2 date of this section, no school district or regional school district shall
3 enter a contract for the purchase of any tray made from expanded
4 polystyrene. Not later than October 1, 2019, each school district and
5 regional school district shall develop a plan for discontinuing the use
6 in such district of trays made from expanded polystyrene. Such plan
7 shall require the district to discontinue such use not later than July 1,
8 2020. For purposes of this section, "expanded polystyrene" means
9 blown polystyrene and expanded and extruded foams that are
10 thermoplastic petrochemical materials utilizing a styrene monomer
11 and processed by any number of techniques including, but not limited
12 to, fusion of polymer spheres, injection molding, foam molding and
13 extrusion-blown molding.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	New section

ENV *Joint Favorable*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 20 \$	FY 21 \$
Education, Dept. (Connecticut Technical and Education Career Center)	GF - Cost	See Below	See Below

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact:

Municipalities	Effect	FY 20 \$	FY 21 \$
Local and Regional School Districts	STATE MANDATE ¹ - Cost	1.98 - 2.75 million statewide	1.98 - 2.75 million statewide

Explanation

The bill results in a state mandate and a statewide annual cost to local and regional school districts, including the Connecticut Technical and Education Career Center, of approximately \$1.98 million to \$2.75 million associated with prohibiting local and regional school districts from entering into purchasing contracts for trays made of expanded polystyrene. The cost per district will vary by the size of the district, the number of trays used, and the specific contract.

It is estimated that replacing polystyrene trays with trays made of recycled materials results in an increased cost of \$18 to \$25 for each case of 500 trays. Connecticut public schools provide 46 million lunches and 18 million breakfasts annually. Assuming that a tray is

¹ State mandate is defined in Sec. 2-32b(2) of the Connecticut General Statutes, "state mandate" means any state initiated constitutional, statutory or executive action that requires a local government to establish, expand or modify its activities in such a way as to necessitate additional expenditures from local revenues.

used for each lunch, the additional statewide cost for purchasing lunch trays made of recycled materials is approximately \$1.66 million to \$2.3 million. Assuming 50% of breakfast meals are served with a tray, the statewide cost for breakfast trays is between \$324,000 and \$450,000.

The cost to each district for purchasing trays made of recycled materials will vary. A small district serving approximately 350,000 meals will incur annual additional costs of approximately \$12,600 to \$17,500. A medium sized district serving 1.8 million meals will incur annual costs of approximately \$64,800 to \$90,000. Larger districts serving 2.5 million meals will incur annual costs of \$90,000 to \$125,000.

If a district instead purchases reusable plastic trays to replace all polystyrene trays, a more significant cost results. It is estimated that reusable plastic trays average \$10-\$12 per tray. In addition to the larger one-time cost of purchasing the trays, districts would incur additional ongoing significant costs related to staff, dishwashing equipment, plumbing, electrical, and maintenance costs.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to inflation, the terms of the purchasing contracts, and the number of trays used annually.

OLR Bill Analysis**SB 229*****AN ACT PROHIBITING THE USE OF STYROFOAM TRAYS IN CONNECTICUT SCHOOLS.*****SUMMARY**

This bill prohibits school districts and regional school districts from entering into purchasing contracts for trays made of expanded polystyrene.

It also requires each district, by October 1, 2019, to develop a plan for discontinuing the use of expanded polystyrene trays. Each plan must require the district to discontinue the use of such trays by July 1, 2020.

Under the bill, “expanded polystyrene” means blown polystyrene and expanded and extruded foams that are thermoplastic petrochemical materials using a styrene monomer and processed by any number of techniques, including fusion of polymer spheres and injection, foam, or extrusion-blown molding.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

COMMITTEE ACTION

Environment Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 20 Nay 8 (03/18/2019)