



Plastic Bag Law

What is Connecticut's Plastic Bag Law?

Connecticut law requires every store to charge a consumer 10 cents for each plastic single-use checkout bag it provides to the consumer at the point of sale.

Under the law, a “store” is a retailer who is registered for state sales tax that (1) sells goods directly to the public and (2) maintains a retail location in Connecticut.

The law requires stores to indicate on the customer's receipt the number of bags provided and the total amount of the fee charged.

The law bans plastic single-use checkout bags as of July 1, 2021.

Municipalities may enact or enforce ordinances on plastic single-use checkout bags that are at least as restrictive as the state law (see *Table 1, reverse*).

- [PA 19-117](#), § 355, effective August 1, 2019



Exemptions

The law exempts the following bags:

- bags provided to contain meat, seafood, loose produce, or other unwrapped food items
- newspaper bags
- laundry or dry cleaning bags
- bags with a thickness of at least four mils (i.e., four thousandths of an inch)

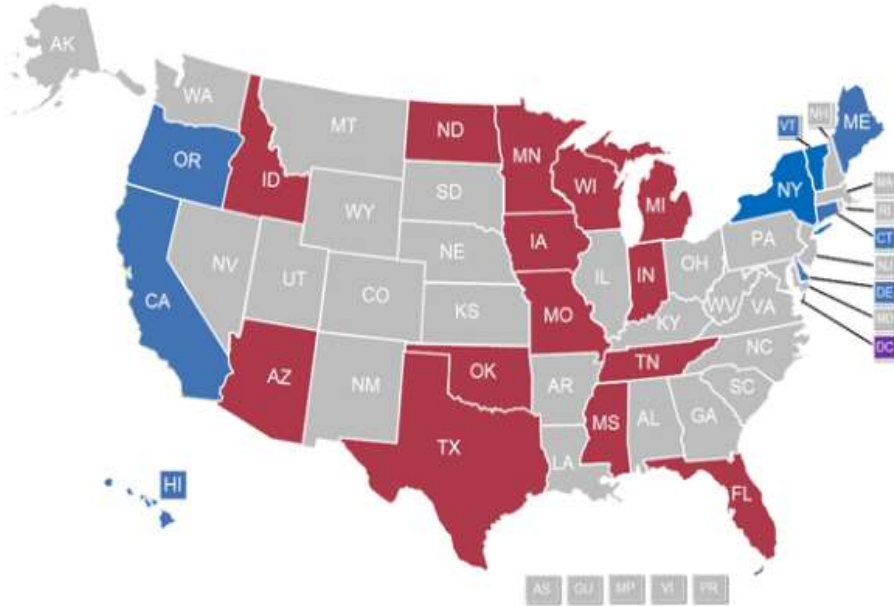


Anticipated Revenue

The FY20-21 [budget](#) projected that the fee would increase General Fund revenue by \$27.7 million in FY20 and \$26.8 million in FY21. The consensus revenue estimates reduced this projection. According to the Office of Policy and Management's [Fiscal Accountability Report](#), the fee will generate \$7 million in each fiscal year. It primarily attributed the reduction to large stores phasing out plastic bags.

Plastic Bag Laws in Other States

Figure 1: States with Laws Addressing Plastic Bags



Legend

States in **BLUE** have laws banning plastic bags.*

PURPLE indicates a law involving fees or taxes.

States in **RED** have laws preventing the regulation or taxing of plastic bags.

(*Connecticut's ban takes effect July 1, 2021. Until then, there is a 10-cent per bag fee.)

Source: National Conference of State Legislatures, [State Plastic and Paper Bag Legislation](#), last updated November 1, 2019

Municipal Bag Ordinances

The state's plastic bag law allows municipalities to enact or enforce an ordinance on plastic single-use checkout bags as long as it is at least as restrictive as the state law. Municipalities may also enact or enforce an ordinance on paper single-use checkout bags, including allowing stores to charge a fee for the paper bags it provides to a customer.

Currently, 19 municipalities in the state have such an ordinance. Table 1 lists these municipalities, though some will not take effect until at least January 1, 2020. (OLR Report [2019-R-0219](#) provides more information on these ordinances.)

Table 1: Connecticut Municipalities with Single-Use Checkout Bag Ordinances

Branford	Hamden	Stamford
Darien	Mansfield	Stonington
Fairfield	Middletown	Washington
Glastonbury	New Britain	Weston
Greenwich	New Canaan	Westport
Guilford	Newtown	Windham
	Norwalk	

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National Caucus of Environmental Legislators, [Plastic Pollution](#), accessed November 22, 2019

Department of Revenue Services, [Guidance on the Single-Use Plastic Bag Fee](#), last updated September 5, 2019

