

Solid Waste Management Legislation, 2018-2022

By: Kristen Miller, Senior Legislative Attorney
September 30, 2022 | 2022-R-0220

Issue

This report describes legislative proposals directly concerning solid waste management, by topic, that were the subject of a public hearing before the Environment Committee since 2018.

Summary

Since 2018, the Environment Committee held public hearings on 46 bills with proposals directly concerning solid waste management in the state. The 2019 legislative session had public hearings on the greatest number of bills (15).

The primary topics included extended producer responsibility (EPR) for certain products (i.e., producer-managed disposal), restrictions or bans on the use or sale of certain consumer products (e.g., balloons, straws, polystyrene products), revisions to the state's beverage container redemption law ("bottle bill"), management of organic materials, content requirements for recycled products, and solid waste management facility operations.

Concepts that became law include, among other things, (1) an EPR program for gas cylinders (see [HB 5142](#) (2022)); (2) a fee and subsequent ban on plastic carryout bags (see [SB 1003](#) and [HB 5019](#) (2019)); (3) an expansion of the mandatory organics recycling law (see [SB 930](#) (2021)); (4) a revamping of the bottle bill that makes more containers subject to the law, increases the deposit amount, increases the handling fee, and decreases the amount of unclaimed deposits that go to the General Fund (see [SB 1037](#) (2021)); and (5) a study of solid waste disposal management operations (see [HB 5298](#) (2022)). As noted below, in some cases, the original bill did not pass but the concepts were included or incorporated into another bill that did pass.

The below tables list the legislation, grouped by general topic. Information in each table generally includes the bill number, a brief description of the bill’s scope, and the last action taken on the bill by the legislature. The tables are as follows:

- Table 1: EPR or Related Stewardship Legislation
- Table 2: Commercial Product Bans, Restrictions, or Fees
- Table 3: Organics-Related Legislation
- Table 4: Bottle Bill-Related Legislation
- Table 5: Recycled Content Requirements
- Table 6: Solid Waste Management Facilities & Operations
- Table 7: Other Miscellaneous Topics

Table 1: EPR or Related Stewardship Legislation*

Year	Bill Number	General Description of Covered Products	Last Action
2021	HB 6386	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • nonrefillable or refillable cylinders with flammable pressured gas, helium, or carbon dioxide, with between 2- and 50-pounds water capacity (§ 1) • tires made primarily of rubber that are mounted on wheels of passenger and commercial motorized vehicles, but not on toys, bicycles, commercial aircraft, or personal mobility devices (§ 2) • residential battery operated or plug-in smoke detectors, carbon monoxide detectors, and combination products (§ 3) 	Voted favorably by the Environment Committee
	SB 1037 , as amended by Senate “A”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • beverage containers covered by the bottle bill (§ 9) 	Passed as PA 21-58
2022	HB 5139	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • tires made primarily of rubber that are mounted on wheels of passenger and commercial motorized vehicles, but not on toys, bicycles, commercial aircraft, or personal mobility devices 	Voted favorably by the Environment Committee

Table 1 (continued)

Year	Bill Number	General Description of Covered Products	Last Action
2022 (cont.)	HB 5142 , as amended by House "A"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> nonrefillable or refillable cylinders with flammable pressured gas, helium, or carbon dioxide, with more than 0.5- and up to 50-pounds water capacity, that is provided to a consumer for personal, family, or household use 	Passed as PA 22-27
	SB 115	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> generally consumer packaging, packaging-like products (e.g., food containers, bags, boxes, wraps, foil, party supplies), and paper 	Public hearing

*Generally (1) requires the establishment of a statewide stewardship organization to manage the discarded covered products and (2) prohibits producers who fail to participate in the program from selling the covered products in the state.

Table 2: Commercial Product Bans, Restrictions, or Fees

Year	Bill Number	Product Type	General Description	Last Action
2019	HB 5019	Plastic and paper bags	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> establishes a five-cent fee on single-use carryout bags that are not 100% recyclable and requires the funds to be used for state parks 	Public hearing (but PA 19-117, § 355, established a 10-cent fee on the plastic bags and banned them as of July 1, 2021)
	HB 5092	Marketing flyers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> prohibits delivery of commercial handbills at a residential dwelling without the property owner's permission 	Voted favorably by the Planning and Development Committee
	HB 5314	Balloons	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> prohibits knowing, intentional, or organized releases of lighter-than-air gas balloons 	Passed by the House
	HB 5384 , as amended by House "B"	Polystyrene containers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> generally prohibits restaurants and caterers from giving customers single-use containers made of expanded polystyrene 	Passed by the House
	HB 5385	Straws	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> generally prohibits full-service restaurants from giving customers single-use plastic straws unless the customers ask for one 	Called in the House but passed temporarily

Table 2 (continued)

Year	Bill Number	Product Type	General Description	Last Action
2019 (cont.)	HB 7295	Paper and packaging	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> requires producers to develop plans to increase recycling and decrease municipal costs to manage their products (§ 1) 	Voted favorably by the Environment Committee
	SB 229 , as amended by Senate "A" & "C"	Polystyrene trays	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> requires certain schools to develop plans to eliminate the use of expanded polystyrene trays 	Passed by the Senate
	SB 1001	Smoke detectors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> requires the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) to report to the Environment Committee on such things as legislative recommendations for the disposal or recycling of residential smoke detectors 	Passed by the Senate
	SB 1003	Plastic and paper bags	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> prohibits stores from providing or selling to customers plastic single-use carryout bags requires paper single-use carryout bags provided to customers to have certain content requirements and be 100% recyclable 	Voted favorably by the Environment Committee (but PA 19-117, § 355, established a 10-cent fee on the plastic bags and banned them as of July 1, 2021)
2020	HB 5339	Balloons	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> prohibits knowing, intentional, or organized releases of lighter-than-air gas balloons 	Public hearing
	SB 99	Polystyrene trays, food, and beverage containers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> requires certain schools to phase out the use of expanded polystyrene trays generally prohibits restaurants and caterers from giving customers single-use expanded polystyrene food and beverage containers 	Voted favorably by the Environment Committee
	SB 299	Straws	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> generally prohibits full-service restaurants from giving customers single-use plastic straws unless the customers ask for one 	Public hearing

Table 2 (continued)

Year	Bill Number	Product Type	General Description	Last Action
2020 (cont.)	SB 300	Smoke detectors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> requires DEEP to report to the Environment Committee on such things as legislative recommendations for the disposal or recycling of residential smoke detectors 	Public hearing
2021	HB 6502	Polystyrene trays, food, and beverage containers; straws; balloons	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> requires certain schools to phase out the use of expanded polystyrene trays generally prohibits restaurants and caterers from giving customers single-use expanded polystyrene food and beverage containers generally prohibits full-service restaurants from giving customers single-use plastic straws unless it is asked for prohibits knowing, intentional, or organized releases of lighter-than-air gas balloons 	Voted favorably by the Environment Committee
2022	HB 5294	Balloons	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> generally prohibits knowing, intentional, organized, or intentionally causing releases of lighter-than-air gas balloons 	Voted favorably by the Environment Committee
	SB 118 , as amended by Senate "A"	Polystyrene products	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> requires certain schools to phase out the use of trays made of expanded polystyrene generally prohibits restaurants and caterers from giving customers single-use food and beverage containers made of expanded polystyrene 	Passed by the Senate

Table 3: Organics-Related Legislation

Year	Bill Number	General Description	Last Action
2018	HB 5360 , as amended by House "A"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> expands the exemption from obtaining solid waste and water discharge permits for leaf composting facilities to include those facilities that add a certain amount of grass clippings to the leaf compost (§ 1) 	Passed as PA 18-181
2019	SB 234	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> requires DEEP to establish a six-month municipal curbside food waste collection pilot program for three municipalities located within 20 miles from a permitted and operational anaerobic digester in the state 	Voted favorably by the Environment Committee
	SB 1002	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> requires that, for proposals from Class 1 renewable energy providers using anaerobic digestion to help meet electric companies' required load, DEEP must consider if the technology allows converting by wastes with concentrated phosphate levels into a commercial agricultural use end product 	Voted favorably by the Environment Committee
2020	SB 298	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> broadens the scope of the law requiring certain organic materials generators to separate the materials and recycle them at composting facilities by applying the law's requirements to generators who are 40, as opposed to 20, miles from a composting facility requires DEEP to establish a voluntary pilot program for municipalities wanting to separate source-separated organic materials 	Public hearing
2021	HB 6503 , as amended by House "A"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> increases an on-farm anaerobic digestion facility feed requirement for food scraps, food processing residuals, and soiled or unrecycled paper from 5% to 40% by volume requires DEEP to act within 180 days after receiving a solid waste permit application from an on-farm anaerobic digestion facility operator concepts from SB 930, see below 	Passed as PA 21-16

Table 3 (continued)

Year	Bill Number	General Description	Last Action
2021 (cont.)	SB 930	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • broadens the scope of the law requiring certain organic materials generators to separate the materials and recycle them at composting facilities by applying the law's requirements to smaller generators • requires DEEP to establish a voluntary pilot program for municipalities wanting to separate source-separated organic materials • requires DEEP to participate in a public education campaign about using composting facilities to divert food waste from the waste stream • allows DEEP to adopt regulations on the production, quality, and use of compost from source-separated organic materials and mixed municipal solid waste • exempts certain permitted solid waste facilities from modifying their permit to start receiving or storing a certain amount of containerized food scrap, food processing residuals, and soiled or unrecycled paper 	Moved to the Foot of Senate Calendar (but concepts passed in PA 21-16)

Table 4: Bottle Bill-Related Legislation

Year	Bill Number	General Description	Last Action
2018	HB 5457	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • decreases, by one cent, the amount a consumer receives for redeeming a beverage container at a redemption center and allows for the redemption center to keep the penny 	Voted favorably by the Environment Committee
2019	HB 7294 , as amended by House "A"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • establishes a task force on the state's recycling and beverage container redemption programs (committee version amended the bottle bill in various ways, including increasing the deposit amount, expanding the beverages subject to the law, and increasing the handling fees) 	Passed by the House

Table 4 (continued)

Year	Bill Number	General Description	Last Action
2020	HB 5340	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> revamps the bottle bill by generally (1) expanding the beverages subject to the law, (2) increasing the deposit amount to 10 cents, (3) increasing the handling fee paid to dealers and redemption centers, (4) reducing the amount of unclaimed deposits that go to the General Fund, and (5) establishing a 90% redemption goal 	Public hearing
2021	SB 1037 , as amended by Senate "A"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> revamps the bottle bill by generally (1) expanding the beverages subject to the law; (2) increasing, beginning in 2024, the deposit amount to 10 cents; (3) increasing the handling fee paid to dealers and redemption centers; (4) incrementally reducing the amount of unclaimed deposits that go to the General Fund; and (5) requiring certain retailers to have reverse vending machines at their stores 	Passed as PA 21-58

Table 5: Recycled Content Requirements

Year	Bill Number	Content	General Description	Last Action
2018	SB 428	Plastic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> requires DEEP to develop strategies to achieve a state goal of having plastic beverage containers sold in the state to be made of at least 25% post-consumer recycled plastic 	Voted favorably by the Environment Committee
2019	HB 7296	Glass	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> requires DEEP to develop a plan to implement best practices for glass recycling in the state to achieve the highest glass recycling rate in the country and produce a recycled glass waste stream with the highest commercial value requires glass beverage containers sold, offered for sale, or distributed in the state to be made of at least 20% post-consumer glass content 	Public hearing

Table 5 (continued)

Year	Bill Number	Content	General Description	Last Action
2020	SB 11	Any	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> requires DEEP to submit to the governor and the Environment Committee recommendations for (1) recycled content requirements for products and (2) multi-state coordination to develop the standards (§ 3) 	Public hearing (but concepts passed as SA 21-9, see below)
	SB 296	Glass	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> requires DEEP to (1) convene a group of New England states' representatives to establish a minimum glass content requirement for glass wine and liquor bottles sold and distributed in New England and (2) report back on the efforts and include related legislative recommendations 	Public hearing
2021	SB 928	Any	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> requires DEEP to submit to the governor and the Environment Committee recommendations for (1) recycled content requirements for products and (2) multi-state coordination to develop the standards 	Passed as SA 21-9

Table 6: Solid Waste Management Facilities & Operations

Year	Bill Number	General Description	Last Action
2019	HB 6646	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> uses the Green Bank model for environmental infrastructure funding, for among other things, solid waste management and recycling 	Public hearing (but concepts passed in PA 21-115, see below)
	HB 7293	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> requires the Materials Innovation and Recycling Authority (MIRA) to provide the terms of its preliminary agreement to redevelop the Connecticut Solid Waste System Project to certain government officials and entities, and post them on its website requires MIRA and the DEEP commissioner to consult with the municipalities served by the project about the agreement 	Voted favorably by the Environment Committee

Table 6 (continued)

Year	Bill Number	General Description	Last Action
2019 (cont.)	HB 7298 , as amended by House "A"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> establishes a task force to study the financial stability and business models for recycling markets and operations in the state (previous versions of the bill included provisions on such things as solid waste facility permitting, redesignating recyclables, and revising resource recovery facility reporting requirements) 	Passed by the House
2020	SB 11	<p>Generally:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> sets a goal of advancing self-sufficiency in managing municipal solid waste and establishes an annual per capita pound target of residential waste disposal requires DEEP to start a "Waste Reduction and Infrastructure Development Program" to further the above goal requires MIRA to submit to DEEP and the Office of Policy and Management a five-year plan for reliable and cost-effective solid waste management service 	Public hearing
2021	HB 6441 , as amended by House "A"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> expands the Green Bank's duties to include developing separate programs for environmental infrastructure (e.g., structures, facilities, and improvement projects related to, among other things, waste and recycling) and establishes an Environmental Infrastructure Fund (§§ 19-23) 	Passed as PA 21-115
2022	HB 5298	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> establishes a task force to study the transition from MIRA's disposal management operations 	Voted favorably by the Environment Committee (but see SA 22-11 which creates a working group on similar matters)

Table 7: Other Miscellaneous Topics

Year	Bill Number	General Description	Last Action
2018	HB 5360 , as amended by House "A"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> requires DEEP, if asked by a municipality, to authorize a two-year municipal glass collection pilot program (§ 12) 	Passed as PA 18-181
	HB 5128	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> establishes a tire hauler license for those who commercially haul discarded tires 	Referred from the House to the Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee
2019	HB 7295	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> creates annual per capita residential solid waste disposal goals for municipalities (§ 2) requires solid waste haulers to annually report to DEEP on all the solid waste, including recyclables, they collect (§ 3) requires DEEP to provide municipalities with technical help for organics management, waste reduction, and recycling systems improvements (§ 4) 	Voted favorably by the Environment Committee
2020	HB 5342	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> requires DEEP to amend its regulations on the separation of recyclable items to allow for multi-stream recycling 	Public hearing
	SB 297	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> requires DEEP to develop a take-back program for municipal sources of PFAS that uses best management practices for their disposal 	Public hearing
2021	HB 6496 , as amended by House "A"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> allows DEEP to establish a pilot program to beneficially use as fill certain reclaimed materials that may have very minor amounts of solid waste 	Passed as PA 21-88
	HB 6502	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> requires DEEP to ask the Connecticut Academy of Science and Engineering to study if there is a compostable single use produce bag available that does not adversely affect the environment (§ 5) 	Voted favorably by the Environment Committee
	SB 837 , as amended by Senate "A" and House "A"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> requires DEEP to develop or identify a take-back program for municipally owned class B firefighting foam with PFAS that uses best management practices for disposal (§ 1) 	Passed as PA 21-191

Table 7 (continued)

Year	Bill Number	General Description	Last Action
2021 (cont.)	SB 1037 , as amended by Senate "A"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • requires DEEP to develop terms for a memorandum of agreement that provides for in-state processing of at least 80% of the wine and liquor beverage containers sold in the state (§ 8) • requires DEEP to develop an incentive program to help municipalities that want to adopt a unit-based pricing program for solid waste disposal (§ 6) • establishes a five-cent surcharge for spirit or liquor "nip" containers and requires the surcharges to go to municipalities for environmental purposes (§ 10) 	Passed as PA 21-58
2022	HB 5144	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • provides \$5 million to remove and recycle debris from the Housatonic River in Stratford 	Substitute voted favorably by the Appropriations Committee (but PA 22-118, § 12, has \$150,000 to support debris removal)

KLM:rr