
OLR Bill Analysis

sHB 6608

AN ACT CONCERNING THE DISTRIBUTION OF SINGLE-USE PLASTIC STRAWS AND STIRRERS BY CERTAIN RESTAURANTS.

SUMMARY

Beginning January 1, 2024, this bill prohibits a full-service restaurant owner or operator from giving a customer a single-use plastic straw or stirrer unless the customer requests one. However, it allows the owner or operator to give a single-use plastic straw or stirrer to someone with a disability. The bill specifies that it does not require an owner or operator who does not otherwise give out these straws or stirrers to do so.

The bill requires full-service restaurant owners or operators to train their employees on these provisions. Specifically, they must train current employees by March 31, 2024 (i.e., within 90 days of the bill's effective date) and new hires within 30 days of their hire date.

The bill states that it does not prevent a municipality from adopting and implementing an ordinance or rule further restricting a full-service restaurant from giving customers single-use plastic straws or stirrers. But the ordinance or rule cannot prohibit a restaurant from giving a single-use plastic straw or stirrer to someone with a disability.

EFFECTIVE DATE: January 1, 2024

DEFINITIONS

Full-Service Restaurant

Under the bill, a "full-service restaurant" is an establishment that primarily serves food that may be consumed on site and where an employee does the following:

1. escorts and seats the customer,

2. takes the customer's food and beverage order after the customer is seated,
3. delivers the order and any requested related items to the customer, and
4. brings the check for the order to the customer's seat.

Single-Use Plastic Straw or Stirrer

A "single-use plastic straw or stirrer" is a single-use disposable tube or stick, made mostly of plastic derived from petroleum or a biologically based polymer, used to transfer a beverage from a container to a person's mouth or used to stir the beverage. It excludes a straw or stirrer made from non-plastic materials like paper, pasta, sugar cane, wood, metal, or bamboo.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Environment Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 28 Nay 4 (03/03/2023)