



# House of Representatives

General Assembly

**File No. 132**

January Session, 2023

Substitute House Bill No. 6608

*House of Representatives, March 21, 2023*

The Committee on Environment reported through REP. GRESKO of the 121st Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

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

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective January 1, 2024*) (a) For purposes of this  
2 section:

3 (1) "Consumer" means any person who is a business invitee of a full-  
4 service restaurant;

5 (2) "Single-use plastic straw or stirrer" means a single-use, disposable  
6 tube or stick, as applicable, made predominantly of plastic derived from  
7 either petroleum or a biologically based polymer, such as corn or other  
8 plant sources, used to transfer a beverage from a container to the mouth  
9 of the person drinking the beverage or used to stir such beverage.  
10 "Single-use plastic straw or stirrer" does not include a straw or stirrer  
11 made from nonplastic materials, including, but not limited to, paper,  
12 pasta, sugar cane, wood, metal or bamboo; and

13 (3) "Full-service restaurant" means any establishment with the  
14 primary business purpose of serving food, where food may be  
15 consumed on the premises, and where all of the following actions are  
16 taken by an employee of the establishment:

17 (A) The consumer is escorted or assigned to an assigned eating area.  
18 The employee may choose the assigned eating area or may seat the  
19 consumer according to the consumer's need for accommodation or other  
20 request;

21 (B) The consumer's food and beverage orders are taken after the  
22 consumer is seated at the assigned seating area;

23 (C) The food and beverage orders are delivered directly to the  
24 consumer;

25 (D) Any requested items associated with the consumer's food or  
26 beverage order are brought to the consumer; and

27 (E) The check for payment of such food or beverage order is delivered  
28 directly to the consumer at the assigned eating area.

29 (b) No owner or operator of a full-service restaurant shall provide a  
30 single-use plastic straw or stirrer to a consumer unless requested by the  
31 consumer, except such owner or operator may provide a single-use  
32 plastic straw or stirrer to any person with a disability. Nothing in this  
33 section shall be construed to require any such owner or operator who  
34 does not otherwise provide single-use plastic straws or stirrers to  
35 consumers to provide consumers with such straws or stirrers.

36 (c) Each owner or operator of a full-service restaurant shall provide  
37 training regarding the requirements of this section to: (1) Each current  
38 employee of such restaurant, not later than ninety days after the  
39 effective date of this section, and (2) each employee of such restaurant  
40 that is hired after such effective date, not later than thirty days after such  
41 employee's date of hire.

42 (d) Nothing in this section shall be construed to prevent any

43 municipality from adopting and implementing an ordinance or rule that  
44 would further restrict an owner or operator of a full-service restaurant  
45 from providing a single-use plastic straw or stirrer, as applicable, to a  
46 consumer, provided no such ordinance or rule shall prohibit any such  
47 owner or operator from providing a single-use plastic straw or stirrer,  
48 as applicable, to a person with a disability.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	January 1, 2024	New section

**ENV**      *Joint Favorable Subst.*

---

*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:** None

**Municipal Impact:** None

**Explanation**

The bill has no fiscal impact to municipalities as it is not expected that local health departments will require resources to enforce the bill's provisions regarding plastic straws, or that enforcement will result in fine revenue.

**The Out Years**

**State Impact:** None

**Municipal Impact:** None

**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)