General Assembly **Substitute Bill No. 6229**

January Session, 2025

* HB06229ENV 032725 *

AN ACT CONCERNING A REDUCTION OF SINGLE-USE PLASTICS AND POLYSTYRENE WASTE.

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

Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2027*) (a) For purposes of this section:

(1) "Polystyrene" means any synthetic polymer material commonly used to manufacture disposable foodware;

(2) "Single-use plastic" means any disposable plastic product intended for one-time use, including plastic cutlery, straws, stirrers, splash sticks and foodware accessories; and

(3) "Food vendor" means any facility licensed as a food vendor pursuant to chapter 417 of the general statutes, including, but not limited to, restaurants, food trucks, cafeterias, and other establishments engaged in the sale or distribution of prepared food and beverages.

(b) On and after July 1, 2027, no state or municipal agency, vendor with a government contract, school, business or food vendor shall sell, use, purchase or provide:

(1) Any single-use foodware composed in whole or in part of polystyrene;

(2) Any packaging product composed of polystyrene, including, but not limited to, packaging peanuts; or

(3) Any single-use plastic straw, plastic stirrer, splash stick or foodware accessory, except that a biodegradable or compostable single-use plastic straw may be provided, upon request by any person, including, but not limited to, any person with a disability, and shall be made available at pharmacies and medical facilities.

(c) The Departments of Consumer Protection and Energy and Environmental Protection shall develop and implement an enforcement plan for the provisions of subsection (b) of this section that includes: (1) Educational outreach efforts to provide guidance and resources to help businesses and institutions transition to sustainable alternatives; (2) a fair compliance timeline; and (3) a penalty for any first violation that consists of a written warning and an attendant assistance period of time to facilitate compliance with said subsection and, for any second or subsequent violation, a penalty of not more than two hundred fifty dollars.

(d) Nothing in this section shall prohibit any municipality from adopting and enforcing ordinances that impose stricter restrictions on single-use plastics and polystyrene than those set forth in this section.

(e) The provisions of this section shall not apply to any packaging product composed of polystyrene or containing polystyrene loose fill that: (1) Is used for prepackaged food that was filled and sealed prior to receipt by a retail establishment, business or food vendor; (2) is used to contain or store raw or frozen meat or seafood sold from a butcher case or similar retail appliance; (3) is a cooler or ice chest, provided such polystyrene is fully encased in another material; or (4) is a reusable polystyrene for agricultural use.

Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective January 1, 2027*) (a) On and after January 1, 2027, all state and municipal buildings, including schools that are required to contain drinking fountains, shall: (1) Install and maintain an equivalent number of bottle-filling stations to promote the use of

reusable water bottles when a capital project is undertaken or such drinking fountains are replaced; and (2) ensure that such bottle-filling stations remain operational and accessible to the public.

(b) The Department of Administrative Services shall develop guidelines for compliance with the provisions of subsection (a) of this section.

Sec. 3. (*Effective from passage*) (a) There is established a task force to study the reduction in single-use plastics in the state. Such study shall identify sustainable alternatives to such single-use plastics, develop recommendations for improving processing infrastructure for such single-use plastics, determine the best methods to support businesses, municipalities and school systems in the adoption of circular economy principles and determine reasonable time frames for the implementation of additional reductions in single-use plastics in the state.

(b) The task force shall consist of the following members:

(1) Two appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives, one of whom has expertise in school nutrition programs and one of whom has expertise in business interests in the state;

(2) Two appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate, one of whom has expertise in restaurant operations in the state and one of whom has expertise in hospital operations in the state;

(3) One appointed by the majority leader of the House of Representatives who has expertise in municipal operations in the state;

(4) One appointed by the majority leader of the Senate who has expertise in state agency operations;

(5) One appointed by the minority leader of the House of Representatives;

(6) One appointed by the minority leader of the Senate; and

(7) The Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection, or the commissioner's designee.

(c) Any member of the task force appointed under subdivision (1), (2), (3), (4), (5) or (6) of subsection (b) of this section may be a member of the General Assembly.

(d) All initial appointments to the task force shall be made not later than thirty days after the effective date of this section. Any vacancy shall be filled by the appointing authority.

(e) The speaker of the House of Representatives and the president pro tempore of the Senate shall select the chairpersons of the task force from among the members of the task force. Such chairpersons shall schedule the first meeting of the task force, which shall be held not later than sixty days after the effective date of this section.

(f) The administrative staff of the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to the environment shall serve as administrative staff of the task force.

(g) Not later than February 1, 2026, the task force shall submit a report on its findings and recommendations to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to the environment, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes. The task force shall terminate on the date that it submits such report or February 1, 2026, whichever is later.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	*July 1, 2027*	New section
Sec. 2	*January 1, 2027*	New section
Sec. 3	*from passage*	New section

ENV *Joint Favorable Subst.*