



OPPOSES

S.4158 (Felder) / A.4883 (Cusick)

AN ACT to establish a moratorium on the adoption or implementation of any local law, ordinance, rule or regulation relating to charging a fee for carryout merchandise bags or a fee of similar effect; and providing for the repeal of such provisions upon expiration thereof

The New York League of Conservation Voters strongly opposes S.4158 (Felder) / A.4883 (Cusick) and urges the legislature to reject this legislation. This bill would preempt Local Law 63 – 2016 of the City of New York in relation to reducing the use of carryout bags until or unless the City Council that will take office on January 1, 2018 reauthorizes, modifies, or repeals Local Law 63. Preemption of this local law will prolong exposure to plastic pollution, dirty air (particularly in low-income communities), and economic hardship to the taxpayers of the City of New York.

Plastic bag litter pollutes our streets, parks, beaches and waterways, causing damage to wildlife as well as flooding due to clogged storm sewer drains, and our climate is impacted by the carbon emissions in their manufacturing and shipping.

In New York City alone, plastic bags account for 91,000 tons of waste annually, equal to about 7,500 sanitation truck trips every year and at a cost to taxpayers of over \$12 million per year. Many of these trucks travel through low-income and minority communities, fouling the air and clogging the streets.

Because the damage done by plastic bags greatly outweighs the benefits, over a dozen local governments in New York have passed local laws to reduce plastic bag pollution either by bans or fees.

New York City passed a local law in May 2016 requiring stores to charge consumers a nominal fee of five cents for a single-use shopping bag:

- Only customers taking a bag will be charged while customers bringing their own shopping bags will not be charged the fee
- SNAP or WIC recipients are exempted from the fee
- Extensive education and distribution of over 200,000 free useable bags in low-income communities before the law takes effect on February 15, 2017

Other local governments in New York State have enacted similar laws including Suffolk County and the City of Long Beach. We urge you not to nullify the City of New York's Local Law 63 of 2016.

NYLCV is strongly opposed to this legislation and urges the legislature to reject it.

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