



Reducing Plastic Pollution

Support: LD 1532 *An Act to Eliminate Single-use Plastic Carry-out Bags*

Sponsored by: Rep. Holly Stover of Boothbay

Co-sponsored by: Sen. Sanborn of Cumberland, Rep. Babine of Scarborough, Rep. Brennan of Portland, Rep. Gramlich of Old Orchard Beach, Rep. Nicole Grohoski of Ellsworth, Rep. Marean of Hollis, Rep. McCrea of Fort Fairfield, Rep. McDonald of Stonington, Rep. Meyer of Eliot, and Rep. O'Neil of Saco

Now is the time for the entire state of Maine to stop using plastic shopping bags.

For more information, please contact Sarah Lakeman, (207) 430-0170 or slakeman@nrcm.org



**Natural Resources
Council of Maine**

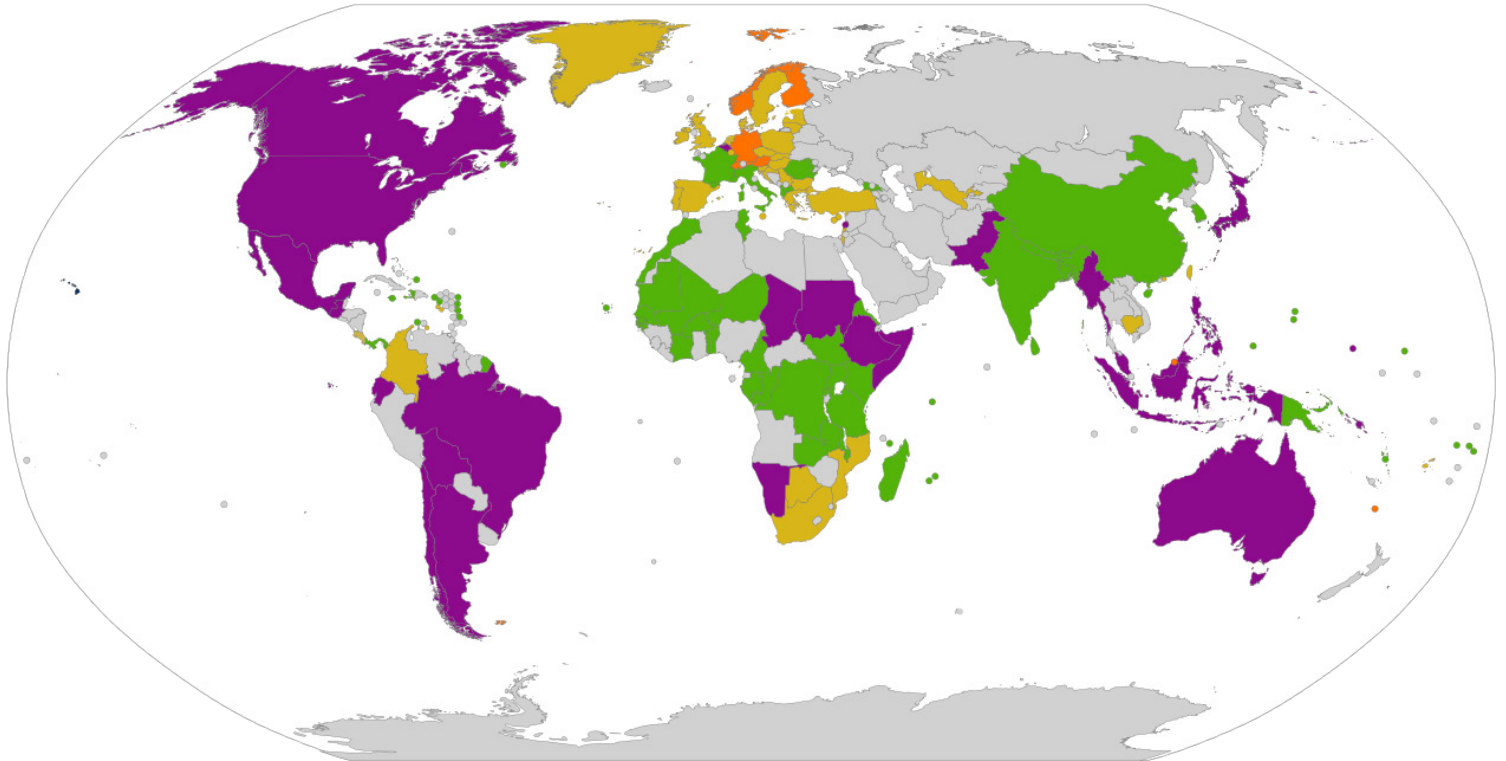
3 Wade Street
Augusta, ME 04330
(207) 622-3101
nrcm.org

Scientists say that by 2050, there will be more plastic in the ocean than fish, ton for ton. Globally, about 1 million plastic shopping bags are distributed per minute, and only 1% are recycled.

- Countless whales, sea turtles, and birds suffer slow, painful deaths and injuries from plastic bag pollution when they mistake the bags for food or get entangled. Plastic bags are the fourth most common type of plastic litter, based on a compilation of nationwide data sets.
- Plastic bags cannot be recycled with other recyclables. When bags are mistakenly placed in recycling bins, they can escape into the environment, jam recycling equipment, and contaminate the recycling stream, which is costly and wasteful.
- Plastic shopping bags have only been used since 1977. Today there are readily available reusable alternatives that cause far less damage to our environment. An incentive helps remind people to use reusable bags.
- Since 2014, 20 Maine towns—home to about 20% of the state's population—have passed ordinances to limit single-use plastic shopping bags.

LD 1532 would make Maine's single-use plastic shopping bag rules consistent, and help our state do its part to address the plastic pollution problem. The bill would:

- Prohibit the distribution of plastic shopping bags at the point of sale at all retail establishments in Maine.
- Place a minimum five-cent fee on paper bags available at the point of sale at large retailers that sell food, to provide an incentive for shoppers to use reusable bags.
- Require paper bags be made of recycled content and ensure that they are recyclable.
- Excuses participants in SNAP and WIC programs from paying the paper bag fee.



By Elekh - Own work, CC BY-SA 3.0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=32400659>

Phase-out of Light-weight Plastic Bags Around the World



As of April 1, 2019, the following Maine towns, which comprise 20% of the state's population, have enacted bag ordinances:

Bath	Cape Elizabeth	Manchester	Saco
Belfast	Damariscotta	Newcastle	South Portland*
Blue Hill	Falmouth*	Portland*	Southwest Harbor
Brunswick	Freeport	Rockland	Topsham*
Camden	Kennebunk	Rockport	Waterville
			York

* denotes town with a plastic bag fee rather than a plastic bag ban



Natural Resources Council of Maine
3 Wade Street • Augusta, Maine • 04330
(800) 287-2345 • www.nrcm.org