

SENATE BILL REPORT

SB 5017

AS OF FEBRUARY 7, 1991

Brief Description: Prohibiting the sale and use of plastic utensils and styrofoam.

SPONSORS: Senators Conner and Moore.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES

Staff: Ats Kiuchi (786-7708)

Hearing Dates: February 11, 1991

BACKGROUND:

Plastic products are major contributors to the state's solid waste stream and to the litter cleanup and control efforts in this state. Polystyrene is the most commonly used material.

Hundreds of products ranging from eating utensils to "styrofoam" cups and food takeout containers are produced from polystyrene.

In the passage of the "Waste Not Washington" Act in 1989, the Legislature prohibited local governments from imposing bans or prohibitions on products or product packaging. The state preemption continues until July 1, 1993.

SUMMARY:

No person may sell or use plastic eating utensils or styrofoam dishes or containers.

The Department of Ecology shall adopt enforcement rules.

Appropriation: none

Revenue: none

Fiscal Note: none requested