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**HOUSE BILL 2284**

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**State of Washington**

**69th Legislature**

**2026 Regular Session**

**By** Representatives Dye, Klicker, Graham, and Barnard

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1 AN ACT Relating to reducing litter, including by amending  
2 carryout bag requirements; amending RCW 70A.530.020; and creating a  
3 new section.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The department of ecology must convene  
6 a littering solutions task force to provide policy recommendations to  
7 the legislature to reduce littering and litter in Washington. The  
8 goal of the policy recommendations is to ensure that at least as much  
9 litter is being collected annually in Washington as is deposited. The  
10 department of ecology may contract with an independent third-party  
11 facilitator to convene the littering solutions task force.

12 (2) The department of ecology must select one member to the  
13 littering solutions task force from each of the following entities or  
14 interests:

- 15 (a) The department of ecology;
- 16 (b) The department of transportation;
- 17 (c) The Washington state patrol;
- 18 (d) The parks and recreation commission;
- 19 (e) The Washington state association of counties;
- 20 (f) The department of natural resources;
- 21 (g) The department of fish and wildlife; and

- 1 (h) Associations representing:  
2 (i) Solid waste collection and management companies in  
3 Washington;  
4 (ii) Retail groceries;  
5 (iii) Hospitality businesses;  
6 (iv) Convenience stores;  
7 (v) Tourism;  
8 (vi) Beverage producers;  
9 (vii) Tobacco product manufacturers; and  
10 (viii) The Washington state association of counties.

11 (3) In developing recommendations, the littering solutions task  
12 force must, at minimum, consider:

13 (a) The results of the department of ecology's 2022 statewide  
14 litter study;

15 (b) How to reduce litter at specific public sites such as  
16 roadways, interchanges, rest areas, state and county parks, and  
17 public recreation lands managed by the department of natural  
18 resources and the department of fish and wildlife;

19 (c) How to reduce the most commonly littered types of litter,  
20 such as construction and demolition debris and cigarette butts; and

21 (d) How to reduce the cost-per-mile of litter cleanup along state  
22 roadways and the root causes of why the average amount of litter per  
23 mile far exceeds the average amount of litter per mile along roadways  
24 in other states.

25 (4) The department of ecology must submit a status update to the  
26 appropriate committees of the legislature by January 15, 2027, and a  
27 final report consisting of the recommendations of the littering  
28 solutions task force by November 15, 2027.

29 **Sec. 2.** RCW 70A.530.020 and 2025 c 312 s 3 are each amended to  
30 read as follows:

31 (1) Beginning January 1, 2021, except as provided in this section  
32 and RCW 70A.530.030, a retail establishment may not provide to a  
33 customer or a person at an event:

34 (a) A single-use plastic carryout bag;

35 (b) A paper carryout bag that does not meet the requirements of  
36 subsection (6)(a) of this section or a reusable carryout bag made of  
37 film plastic that does not meet recycled content requirements; or

38 (c) Beginning January 1, 2028, a reusable carryout bag made of  
39 film plastic with a thickness of less than four mils, in the event

1 that the 2026 legislature does not amend this section to reflect the  
2 recommendations to the legislature made consistent with RCW  
3 70A.530.060.

4 (2) (a) A retail establishment may provide a reusable carryout bag  
5 or a compliant paper carryout bag of any size to a customer at the  
6 point of sale. A retail establishment may make reusable carryout bags  
7 available to customers through sale.

8 (b) (i) Until December 31, 2025, a retail establishment must  
9 collect a pass-through charge of eight cents for every compliant  
10 paper carryout bag with a manufacturer's stated capacity of one-  
11 eighth barrel (eight hundred eighty-two cubic inches) or greater or  
12 reusable carryout bag made of film plastic it provides, except as  
13 provided in subsection (5) of this section and RCW 70A.530.030.

14 (ii) Beginning January 1, 2026, a retail establishment must  
15 collect a pass-through charge of twelve cents for reusable carryout  
16 bags made of film plastic and eight cents for compliant paper  
17 carryout bags.

18 (iii) (~~Until December 31, 2027, a~~) A retail establishment that  
19 offers for sale a reusable carryout bag made of film plastic with a  
20 thickness equal to or greater than four mils shall collect, in  
21 addition to the 12 cent pass-through charge, a four cent penalty. The  
22 penalty shall be deposited in the waste reduction, recycling, and  
23 litter control account under RCW 70A.200.140.

24 (c) A retail establishment must keep all revenue from pass-  
25 through charges, not including the penalty provided under (b) (iii) of  
26 this subsection. The pass-through charge is a taxable retail sale. A  
27 retail establishment must show all pass-through charges and penalties  
28 on a receipt provided to the customer.

29 (3) Carryout bags provided by a retail establishment do not  
30 include:

31 (a) Bags used by consumers inside stores to:

32 (i) Package bulk items, such as fruit, vegetables, nuts, grains,  
33 candy, greeting cards, or small hardware items such as nails, bolts,  
34 or screws;

35 (ii) Contain or wrap items where dampness or sanitation might be  
36 a problem including, but not limited to:

37 (A) Frozen foods;

38 (B) Meat;

39 (C) Fish;

40 (D) Flowers; and

1 (E) Potted plants;  
2 (iii) Contain unwrapped prepared foods or bakery goods;  
3 (iv) Contain prescription drugs; or  
4 (v) Protect a purchased item from damaging or contaminating other  
5 purchased items when placed in a compliant paper carryout bag or  
6 reusable carryout bag; or  
7 (b) Newspaper bags, mailing pouches, sealed envelopes, door  
8 hanger bags, laundry/dry cleaning bags, or bags sold in packages  
9 containing multiple bags for uses such as food storage, garbage, or  
10 pet waste.  
11 (4) (a) Any compostable film bag, including, but not limited to,  
12 compostable film bags derived in whole or in part from potato starch,  
13 that a retail establishment provides to customers for products,  
14 including for products bagged in stores prior to checkout, must meet  
15 the requirements for compostable products and film bags in chapter  
16 70A.455 RCW.  
17 (b) A retail establishment may not use or provide polyethylene or  
18 other noncompostable plastic bags for bagging of customer products in  
19 stores, as carryout bags, or for home delivery that do not meet the  
20 requirements for noncompostable products and film bags in chapter  
21 70A.455 RCW.  
22 (5) Except as provided by local regulations enacted as of April  
23 1, 2020, a retail establishment may provide a bag restricted under  
24 subsection (1) of this section from existing inventory until one year  
25 after June 11, 2020. The retail establishment, upon request by the  
26 department, must provide purchase invoices, distribution receipts, or  
27 other information documenting that the bag was acquired prior to June  
28 11, 2020.  
29 (6) For the purposes of this section:  
30 (a) A compliant paper carryout bag must:  
31 (i) Contain a minimum of forty percent postconsumer recycled  
32 materials, a minimum of 40 percent nonwood renewable fiber, or a  
33 combination of postconsumer recycled materials and nonwood renewable  
34 fiber that totals at least 40 percent;  
35 (ii) Be capable of composting, consistent with the timeline and  
36 specifications of the entire American society of testing materials  
37 D6868 and associated test methods that must be met, as it existed as  
38 of January 1, 2020; and

1 (iii) Display in print on the exterior of the paper bag the  
2 minimum percentage of postconsumer content, wheat straw fiber  
3 content, or both.

4 (b) A reusable carryout bag must:

5 (i) Have a minimum lifetime of one hundred twenty-five uses,  
6 which for purposes of this subsection means the capacity to carry a  
7 minimum of twenty-two pounds one hundred twenty-five times over a  
8 distance of at least one hundred seventy-five feet;

9 (ii) Be machine washable or made from a durable material that may  
10 be cleaned or disinfected; and

11 (iii) If made of film plastic:

12 (A) Be made from a minimum of twenty percent postconsumer  
13 recycled content until July 1, 2022, and thereafter must be made from  
14 a minimum of forty percent postconsumer recycled content;

15 (B) Display in print on the exterior of the plastic bag the  
16 minimum percentage of postconsumer recycled content, the mil  
17 thickness, and that the bag is reusable; and

18 (C) Have a minimum thickness of no less than 2.25 mils (~~until~~  
19 ~~December 31, 2027, and beginning January 1, 2028, must have a minimum~~  
20 ~~thickness of four mils~~).

21 (c) Except for the purposes of subsection (4) of this section,  
22 food banks and other food assistance programs are not retail  
23 establishments, but are encouraged to take actions to reduce the use  
24 of single-use plastic carryout bags.

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