

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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114th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION - 1989

Legislative Document

No. 1102

H.P. 790

House of Representatives, April 11, 1989

Reference to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources suggested and ordered printed.

Ed Pert

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

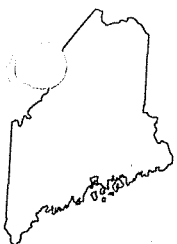
Presented by Representative ADAMS of Portland.

Cosponsored by Senator LUDWIG of Aroostook, Representative TRACY of Rome and Representative GOULD of Greenville.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD
NINETEEN HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-NINE

An Act to Require the Use of Carry-out Bags that Can Be Recycled.



1 Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:

3 38 MRSA §1604 is enacted to read:

5 §1604. Plastic carry-out bags

7 1. Definitions. As used in this section, unless the
8 context otherwise indicates, the following terms have the
9 following meanings.

11 A. "Plastic carry-out bag" means any bag made of synthetic
12 or natural polymerized resins, including polyethylene, used
13 by the consumer to transport purchased goods from the retail
14 or commercial establishment that provides the bag.

15 2. Prohibitions. All retail and commercial establishments
16 in this State shall provide paper carry-out bags to customers for
17 the purpose of carrying purchases unless the consumer
18 specifically requests a plastic carry-out bag. In addition:

19 A. After January 1, 1990, no retail or commercial
20 establishment in this State may sell or provide plastic
21 carry-out bags unless those bags are recycled in this State
22 at a sustained rate of 50% as determined by the Office of
23 Waste Recycling and Reduction; and

24 B. After January 1, 1990, all plastic carry-out bags shall
25 be composed of one type of plastic only and labeled with the
26 name of that plastic.

31

33 **STATEMENT OF FACT**

35 Plastics compose a significant and highly visible portion of
36 the waste stream in Maine. According to industry trade studies,
37 plastic packaging comprises 11.5% of municipal waste by weight
38 and far more in terms of volume.

39

40 To reduce litter and reduce the stream of plastic entering
41 the State's landfills, this bill requires that paper bags be
42 provided to customers unless a plastic carry-out bag is
43 requested. After January 1, 1990, all plastic carry-out bags
44 shall be of plastic that can be recycled and labeled with the
45 type of plastic used.