

2020 -- H 7163

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2020

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A N A C T

RELATING TO FOOD AND DRUGS -- SINGLE-USE PLASTIC STRAWS

Introduced By: Representatives Bennett, Canario, Jackson, Vella-Wilkinson, and Handy

Date Introduced: January 16, 2020

Referred To: House Environment and Natural Resources

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Title 21 of the General Laws entitled "FOOD AND DRUGS" is hereby  
2 amended by adding thereto the following chapter:

3 CHAPTER 27.2

4 SINGLE-USE PLASTIC STRAWS

5 **21-27.2-1. Definitions.**

6 As used in this chapter:

7 (1) "Food service establishment" shall have the meaning set forth in § 21-27-1.

8 (2) "Single-use plastic straw" means a single-use, disposable tube made predominantly of  
9 plastic derived from either petroleum or a biologically based polymer, such as corn or other plant  
10 sources, used to transfer a beverage from a container to the mouth of the person drinking the  
11 beverage. "Single-use plastic straw" does not include a straw made from non-plastic materials,  
12 including, but not limited to, paper, pasta, sugar cane, wood, or bamboo.

13 **21-27.2-2. Prohibited practices exception.**

14 A food service establishment shall not provide a single-use plastic straw to a consumer  
15 unless requested by the consumer.

16 **21-27.2-3. Penalties.**

17 The first and second violations of this chapter shall result in a notice of violation, and any  
18 subsequent violation shall be punishable by a fine of twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) for each  
19 violation by the service establishment, but not to exceed three hundred dollars (\$300) annually.

1           **21-27.2-4. Enforcement.**

2           The director of health shall promulgate and adopt such rules and regulations as may be  
3 necessary to enforce the provisions of this chapter.

4           SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF

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1           This act would prohibit a food service establishment from providing a consumer with a  
2 single-use plastic straw, unless the consumer requests such a straw. The first and second violation  
3 of this statute would result in a notice of violation, and any subsequent violations would be  
4 punishable by a fine of twenty-five dollars (\$25.00), not to exceed three hundred dollars (\$300)  
5 annually.

6           This act would take effect upon passage.

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