

Originating Committee: Environment and Ecology
Original Authors: Ashley Hollis, Josh Meyer (CLC)
Renewal Author: Dana Ripper
Intended Recipient: Missouri General Assembly

Repeal Missouri Legislation Outlawing Plastic Bags Ban

WHEREAS, in 2015 HB 722 passed, revising section 260.283, RSMo, outlawing bans on plastic bags statewide; and

WHEREAS, the statewide ban strips county, city, and district governments and their resident voters of the authority to make their own decisions regarding environmental regulations; and

WHEREAS, since 2015 the legislature has considered additional legislation which would further limit local decisions regarding other single-use disposable materials; and

WHEREAS, according to the Missouri Department of Natural Resources Waste Composition Study's final report in 2016-2017, Missourians threw away 655,644 tons of plastic; and

WHEREAS, plastic bags can easily find their way out of landfills and/or garbage trucks and into Missouri streams, fences, agricultural fields, and trees as they are lightweight and can be carried by wind; and

WHEREAS, it takes between 10 and 1,000 years for plastic bags to decompose in a landfill; and

WHEREAS, there is consensus among environmental, medical, and waste management research that single-use plastic is both a human health risk and an environmental threat and that current management practices are not adequately addressing the litter problem; and

WHEREAS, Missouri landscapes, including public lands, are littered by plastic bags even though trash cans and recycling programs are provided; and

WHEREAS, Missourians have the right to choose the level of environmental regulation in their communities and how they respond to plastic consumption; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED that the Conservation Federation of Missouri assembled at Lake Ozark, Missouri, this 2nd day of March, 2024, urges the Missouri General Assembly to revise section 260.283, RSMo to allow political subdivisions across Missouri to self-govern and decide for themselves whether or not to regulate plastic bag use and other single-use plastics.

Searchable keywords: plastic, bags, plastic bag, pollution, litter, ban, section 260.283, RSMo

Expires: March 2, 2029