

**ASSEMBLY CONCURRENT
RESOLUTION No. 81**

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2020 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman VALERIE VAINIERI HUTTLE

District 37 (Bergen)

Assemblywoman CAROL A. MURPHY

District 7 (Burlington)

Co-Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman Swain and Assemblyman Kennedy

SYNOPSIS

Urges DEP and EDA to establish plastics recycling marketplace.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



1 **A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION** urging the Department of
2 Environmental Protection and the Economic Development
3 Authority to establish a plastics recycling marketplace.
4
5 **WHEREAS**, Single-use plastics are defined as plastic packaging and
6 other consumer products made out of plastic that are designed to be
7 used once and thrown away after a brief use, and include bottles,
8 cups, plastic lids, bags, plates, utensils, straws, stirrers, swabs, food
9 containers, plastic film wraps, and plastic packaging; and
10 **WHEREAS**, Americans purchase 50 billion water bottles per year,
11 averaging 13 bottles per month per person; and
12 **WHEREAS**, Additionally, 100 billion plastic bags and 25 billion
13 styrofoam plastic coffee cups are thrown away by Americans each
14 year, which averages to 307 plastic bags and 77 cups per person per
15 year; and
16 **WHEREAS**, Not all single-use plastic waste reaches landfills,
17 permanent disposal facilities, or is recycled; and
18 **WHEREAS**, New Jersey's current post-consumer plastics recycling
19 rates vary between six to nine percent, however, although some
20 calculations indicate recycling rates maybe around 13 percent; and
21 **WHEREAS**, Mismanaged single-use plastic waste may block drainage
22 systems, release toxic fumes if burned, become land pollution, and
23 contaminate the food chain; and
24 **WHEREAS**, Further, unrecycled plastics are disposed of in landfills,
25 dumpsites, incinerators, or end up in waterways and oceans where
26 they will remain for hundreds or even thousands of years; and
27 **WHEREAS**, Furthermore, plastic released in the environment typically
28 does not biodegrade, but instead breaks into smaller pieces, called
29 microplastics, which continue to accumulate in the natural
30 environment; and
31 **WHEREAS**, There is evidence that microplastic pollution can move
32 through natural food webs and accumulate in fin fish and shellfish
33 tissues, which means microplastics and associated pollutants have
34 the potential to move into the human food chain; and
35 **WHEREAS**, The accumulation of single-use plastics in our environment
36 is dangerous for the residents of this State, marine wildlife, and the
37 environment, creates visual pollution, and impacts tourism, fishing,
38 and shipping industries; and
39 **WHEREAS**, Efficient research needs to be conducted for the
40 development of technologies to reuse or transform single-use
41 plastic waste into useful products and create a marketplace for the
42 massive volume of single-use plastics; and
43 **WHEREAS**, It is imperative to develop a single-use plastics recycling
44 marketplace in order to divert single use plastics from our
45 environment, including from our oceans and landfills; now,
46 therefore,

1 year. Not all single-use plastic waste reaches landfills, permanent
2 disposal facilities, or is recycled.

3 New Jersey's current post-consumer plastics recycling rates vary
4 between six to nine percent, however, although some calculations
5 indicate recycling rates maybe around 13 percent. Mismanaged
6 single-use plastic waste may block drainage systems, release toxic
7 fumes if burned, become land pollution, and contaminate the food
8 chain. Further, unrecycled plastics are disposed of in landfills,
9 dumpsites, incinerators, or end up in waterways and oceans where
10 they will remain for hundreds or even thousands of years.
11 Furthermore, plastic released in the environment typically does not
12 biodegrade, but instead breaks into smaller pieces, called
13 microplastics, which continue to accumulate in the natural
14 environment. There is evidence that microplastic pollution can
15 move through natural food webs and accumulate in fin fish and
16 shellfish tissues, which means microplastics and associated
17 pollutants have the potential to move into the human food chain.
18 The accumulation of single-use plastics in our environment is
19 dangerous for the residents of this State, marine wildlife, and the
20 environment, creates visual pollution, and impacts tourism, fishing,
21 and shipping industries.