

American Legion Auxiliary
New Mexico Girls State
Bill

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY



Principal Author: Amber Washburn

Bill No: 12 Committee: E

Status:

Passed by: Committee House Senate Governor

Failed by: Committee House Senate Governor

Other: Combined with Bill 4 (Kai Warrior)

Simple Title of Bill: Plastic Straws

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SENATE BILL

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72nd SESSION – AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY NEW MEXICO GIRLS STATE – 2019

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INTRODUCED BY

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Amber Washburn

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AN ACT

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RELATING TO PROVIDING PLASTIC STRAWS IN RESTAURANTS

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BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY NEW

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MEXICO GIRLS STATE:

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SECTION 1. DEFINITIONS. -

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SECTION 2. PROVISIONS. - This bill would prohibit a restaurant from providing single-

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use plastic straws to customers unless requested by the customer. Providing single-use

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plastic straws to a customer unless requested by the customer would be punished by a fine

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of not more than 300\$. This bill will serve as a deterrent for restaurants

1 ordering plastic straws in the first place. Even plastic Straws that do get recycled often don't
2 make it through the mechanical recycling sorter because they are so small and lightweight.
3 Therefore they contaminate recycling loads or get disposed of as garbage. It is estimated
4 that the average person uses 1.6 plastic-straws per day. That means that if 25,000
5 residents stop using plastic-straws, we would eliminate 5,000,000 plastic-straws and
6 prevent them from entering oceans and harming wildlife. Plastic straws don't decompose,
7 or biodegrade. Plastics can stay in landfills for hundreds of years, and plastic in the ocean
8 called micro-plastics can poison animals and substantially harm the ocean's ecosystem.
9 Microplastics are particularly problematic because, as the life cycle comes full circle, they
10 bring adverse impacts for humans too. We ingest the fish that have ingested such plastic,
11 and it is no easier for us to digest plastic than it is for the sea life to digest plastic. Tens of
12 thousands of whales, birds, seals and turtles are killed every year from plastic litter in the
13 marine environment as plastic cannot be digested or passed by an animal. Each day in the
14 United States of America plastic straws create enough waste to wrap the circumference of
15 the earth 2.5 times.

16 SECTION 3. PENALTY. - Providing single-use plastic straws to customers unless
17 requested by the customer shall be punished by a fine of not more than 300\$.

18 SECTION 4. APPROPRIATION. -

19 All laws, acts, provisions, or parts of laws contained in the Constitution of the State of New
20 Mexico in conflict with any provision of this act are hereby repealed.

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22 This act shall become effective 90 days after it's passage and approval by the American
23 Legion Auxiliary New Mexico Girls State Governor or it's otherwise becoming a law.

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