

TOWN OF BARRINGTON, RI

RESOLUTION REGARDING SB 410 AND HB 5671 ON PLASTIC BAG BANS TO AMEND THE LANGUAGE TO EXCLUDE THE UNIFORMITY CLAUSE

WHEREAS, the Town of Barrington passed the first single-use plastic bag ban in the State of Rhode Island in 2013, and

WHEREAS, this ordinance was amended in 2015 to close a loophole in the original boiler plate language which unintentionally allowed for the distribution of thicker, single-use plastic bags, thus violating the intention of the ordinance which was to reduce the amount of plastic bags in circulation, and

WHEREAS, plastic pollution has been recognized as a global crisis, dangerous to the health of our oceans, ocean species, environment and wildlife, contributes to climate change, puts Rhode Island's fishing industries and aquatic ecosystems at risk, human health at risk, and is the major component of litter, and

WHEREAS, bills proposed in both the RI Senate (SB 410) and the House of Representatives (HB 5671) called "Plastic Waste Reduction Act" have been proposed to help eliminate single-use plastic bags, and

WHEREAS, we, the Town of Barrington applaud the intent of these bills to reduce the amount of plastic pollution in our State, in our environment, in our ocean and waterways and in our single landfill, and

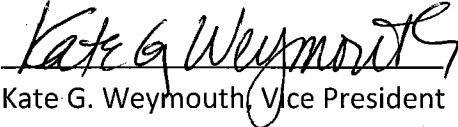
WHEREAS, both bills as currently written are weaker than Barrington's 2015 amended ordinance in that they will allow for thicker, single-use plastic bags to be reintroduced into our community as well as into the ten other RI communities having consistent, uniform existing plastic bag bans; and

WHEREAS, the statewide ban will do very little to encourage the re-use of shopping bags and will increase the volume of plastic waste.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Town Council of the Town of Barrington will support these bills only on the condition that **both bills be amended to exclude the uniformity clause**, specifically the language that states that this law will supersede all local laws, which would prohibit the Town of Barrington from continuing to take the lead on this critical issue and set the State on a path backwards, not forward in its effort to reduce plastic pollution.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that, upon passage, copies of this resolution be sent to the Town of Barrington's State Senators and State Representatives in the Rhode Island General Assembly, the Senate President, the Speaker of the House, the Executive Director of the Rhode Island League of Cities and Towns, the Governor of the State of Rhode Island and specifically to the municipalities of Warren, Bristol, Portsmouth, Middletown, Newport, Jamestown, South Kingstown, North Kingstown and New Shoreham as well as Westerly, Cranston and Providence, all municipalities with uniform and consistent plastic bag bans (the latter three (3) municipalities pending) and to the remaining Cities and Towns in the State of Rhode Island.

Adopted by the Town Council of the Town of Barrington on April 20, 2019.


Kate G. Weymouth, Vice President
Barrington Town Council


Attested by: Meredith DeSisto, Town Clerk