

Proposed Plastic Legislation

Legislative Scorecard Roundup for the 2021-22 Session from Science for Georgia

SB 104: Retail Single Use Plastic Ban

[SB 104](#) would ban single use plastic bags and Styrofoam in retail establishments except for use in produce, trash, newspaper, and garment bags.

Stage: In Committee

Criteria	Score	Assessment
Scientific Merit	Follows Science	Yes , this does follow scientific research. There is an environmental need to transition away from plastic because it is harmful for wildlife and human health. Plastic production is predicted to quadruple from 2014 to 2050, and single use plastics are the most common type of plastic used. Single-use plastics , like bags and Styrofoam, are a driving force in plastic pollution. Most of this plastic ends up in landfills, clogging storm drains, or is carried down-river from watersheds across the state to our coast. Single-use plastics are now the most common pollution found on our beaches, posing a significant threat to coastal birds, sea turtles, marine mammals, and other wildlife.
Stakeholder Perception	Positive	Majority of stakeholders agree . Many environmental organizations support plastic bans/taxes such as Protect Georgia and the Georgia Conservancy . Cities in Georgia have enacted their own plastic legislation. However, some businesses oppose due to the effort and cost of shifting away from plastic.
Reach	Majority Impact	Impacts majority; exceptions. All retail and restaurants would be subject to the ban, but there are exceptions for produce, trash, newspapers, and garment bags.
Measurable Impacts?	Complete Transparency	All data is available to track metrics. Retail establishments could track cost-benefit tradeoff and the change in waste collection could be measured statewide.
Political Feasibility	Party-line Split	Democrat sponsored bill. No votes have been conducted yet.

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SB 224: Government Cafeteria Plastic Ban

[SB 224](#) is another plastic bill. It mandates all single-use and carry-out products (except for lids) that are sold, distributed, and provided at cafeterias operated by the Georgia Building Authority shall be paper based, shall not contain per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances, and shall be commonly recyclable or compostable.

Stage: In Committee

Criteria	Score	Assessment
Scientific Merit	Follows Science	Yes , this does follow scientific research accurately. Single-use plastics , like bags and Styrofoam, are a major contributor to plastic pollution. Most of this plastic ends up in landfills, clogging storm drains, or is carried down-river from watersheds across the state to our coast. Many single use plastics contain plastics contain per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) that are harmful to neurodevelopment and disrupt hormones .
Stakeholder Perception	Positive	Majority of stakeholders agree . Protect Georgia supports plastic reduction and several cities in Georgia have enacted their own plastic legislation. However, there is opposition from some businesses due to potential changes in cost and supply chain management.
Reach	Majority Impact	Impacts majority; exceptions. This effects all cafeterias under the Georgia Building Authority, which serve policymakers, schoolchildren, and government employees.
Measurable Impacts	Mostly Trackable	Most of the data exists and is accessible. Cafeterias could track cost-benefit tradeoff and change in waste collection could be measured within the buildings.
Political Feasibility	Party-line Split	Democrat sponsored bill. No votes have been conducted yet.



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HR 114: Highlighting Recycling as an essential part of the supply chain

[HR 114](#) is a resolution that recognizes the Georgia Recyclers Association, Georgia Recycling Coalition, and Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries and their employees as an essential part of the supply chain.

Stage: Signed/Enacted

Criteria	Score	Assessment
Scientific Merit	Follows Science	Georgia is a world leader in manufacturing steel, paper, electronics, aluminum, plastics, textiles, tires, and glass. Georgia relies on recycled materials for the continued production of these products. Georgia Recyclers Association, Georgia Recycling Coalition, and Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries have operated safely through the pandemic and kept hundreds of thousands of tons of valuable recyclable materials, such as automobiles, scrap metal, electronics, paper, glass, plastics, rubber, and textiles out of landfills through recycling. Recycling is an essential part of the global and local supply chain.
Stakeholder Perception	Positive	Majority of stakeholders agree . Protect Georgia supports plastic reduction and several cities in Georgia have enacted their own plastic legislation.
Reach	Narrow Impact	Recognition resolution.
Measurable Impacts	Not Trackable	No actions to track.
Political Feasibility	Bipartisan Support	Sponsored by 1 Democrat and 5 Republicans. Passed.



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HR 223: Create committee on sustainable materials management and state properties

[HR 223](#) is a resolution that creates a 14-person joint (both House and Senate) committee on sustainable materials management on state properties. The purpose of this committee is investigating the waste stream created on properties; characterizing the waste created on properties; evaluating recycling and waste output practices; investigating how to provide strategic support for education and outreach and metrics and data collection of contamination in the recycling stream; studying alternative waste management methods; studying the possibility of creating a robust recovered materials management program; and, once the knowledge is gained, **recommending any action or legislation necessary to impact materials management on state properties.**

Stage: Introduced

Criteria	Score	Assessment
Scientific Merit	Follows Science	Yes , this does follow scientific research accurately. Recycling, managing recovered materials, reducing waste, and composting are good for Georgia's economy, resulting in 12,500 jobs, and \$232.5 million in taxes revenue . More than 100 manufacturers in Georgia depend upon recycled plastic, glass, metal, paper, and organics as feedstocks in manufacturing new products, and on a per-ton basis, composting waste creates twice as many jobs as landfilling waste. These industries also benefit the environment by saving energy and water, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, limiting air and water pollution, conserves natural resources, saves money, and extends the life of landfills. Given the benefits of these industries, states should identify ways to reduce, reuse, and recycle on all state properties to support the economy, and provide technical guidance (studies, toolkits, technical support to staff) to manage waste sustainably.
Stakeholder Perception	Positive	Majority of stakeholders agree .
Reach	Low impact	Study committees have relatively low impact. However, they are an important first step in information gathering.
Measurable Impacts	Mostly Trackable	Study committees produce testimony and written reports; making public all relevant findings.
Political Feasibility	Bipartisan Support	Bipartisan sponsored bill. No votes have been conducted yet.



Proposed Plastic Legislation in Georgia

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HR 595: sustainable materials management and safe drinking water at the capitol

[HR 595](#) is a resolution that urges the Georgia Building Authority to create a robust, sustainable materials management plan and safe drinking water plan for the capitol campus properties. This will be achieved, by consulting with local representatives from the industry of sustainable materials management and investigating and reporting on current sustainability practices.

Stage: In Committee

Criteria	Score	Assessment
Scientific Merit	Follows Science	Yes , this does follow scientific research accurately. There is a need for reducing waste and improving efficiencies. Starting with capitol properties sets a precedent and can help inform policy decisions in reducing, reusing, and recycling.
Stakeholder Perception	Positive	Majority of stakeholders agree .
Reach	Low impact	Creates a plan to evaluate and change sustainability practices on all capital properties. This includes 14 buildings across Atlanta.
Measurable Impacts	Mostly Trackable	Report will be released after investigation on current sustainability practices.
Political Feasibility	Bipartisan Support	Bipartisan sponsored bill. 4 Democrats and 2 Republicans sponsoring. No votes have been conducted yet.

