HOUSE FILE 2631
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A BILL FOR

An Act relating to the purchase, use, and disposal of plastic products.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:
Section 1. Section 8A.311, Code 2020, is amended by adding the following new subsection:

NEW SUBSECTION. 24. a. For purposes of this subsection, "single-use plastic product" includes the following:

1. Plastic bags.
2. Cling film plastic food packaging.
3. Nonrecyclable plastic bottles.
5. Plastic plates, nonreuseable plastic containers, plastic cups, plastic lids, and plastic stirrers.
7. Plastic rings used in packaging.
8. Plastic foam plates, plastic foam takeout containers, and plastic foam trays.
9. Any other single-use plastic products determined to be included by the department, in consultation with the department of natural resources.

b. A state agency or a political subdivision of the state shall not purchase or obtain for any purpose a single-use plastic product.

Sec. 2. PLASTIC POLLUTION STUDY GROUP.

1. The department of natural resources shall assemble a study group composed of relevant stakeholders, including but not limited to a person associated with the manufacturing of plastic products, a person associated with the recycling of plastic products, a person associated with the operation of a small landfill, a person associated with the operation of a large landfill, a person whose occupation involves the use of recyclable plastic, a person involved with an environmental protection advocacy group, a person involved with a natural resources conservation organization, an appointee from the department of transportation, and a representative from a local government board, council, department, or agency.

2. The study group shall estimate the amount of nonbiodegradable plastics going to landfills, recycling
centers, and wastewater treatment facilities in the state. The study group shall quantify the presence of plastic pollutants otherwise discarded in or discharged to the state’s land and waters.

3. The study group shall prepare a report providing recommendations for laws, policies, and best practices that can be adopted by the general assembly, state agencies, political subdivisions of the state, and other public and private purchasers, users, transporters, and processors of plastics to reduce and eliminate nonbiodegradable plastics and plastic pollutants from waste streams and the natural environment. The study group shall submit its report to the general assembly no later than August 1, 2021.

EXPLANATION

The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with the explanation’s substance by the members of the general assembly.

This bill relates to the purchase, use, and disposal of plastic products. The bill provides a definition of "single-use plastic product" and prohibits a state agency or political subdivision of the state from purchasing or obtaining for any purpose a single-use plastic product. The bill requires the department of natural resources to assemble a study group to estimate the amount of nonbiodegradable plastic moving through waste streams in the state and quantify the amount of plastic pollutants discarded in or discharged to the state’s land and waters. The bill requires the study group to submit a report to the general assembly no later than August 1, 2021, providing recommendations for laws, policies, and best practices to reduce and eliminate plastics from waste streams and the natural environment.