

# Plastic Packaging Stewardship

## Fixing Recycling and Reducing Plastic Pollution (HB1204/SB5397)

*Making domestic recycling systems efficient and effective for plastic packaging*

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### Increased use of plastic packaging by manufacturers is causing a myriad of problems

**Plastics are a pollution problem** in our rivers, lakes, Sound and ocean where they are ingested by birds, fish and marine mammals.

**Plastics are causing serious problems for recycling programs**, contaminating materials sent to markets overseas as well as clogging recycling machinery here at home. Our entire recycling system is currently at risk due to this contamination. **Plastics are a major contamination problem** for our commercial compost.

Manufacturers are rapidly expanding the use of plastic packaging because it is lighter and cheaper. **Costs associated with plastic packaging are then shifted to ratepayers and the environment.**

### What this bill does: Establishes a Plastic Packaging Stewardship program, based on models that work in British Columbia and Europe

**Includes powerful new incentives and requirements** that will address many of the problems above:

- **Shifts all costs** associated with managing plastic packaging off the backs of ratepayers and on to the manufacturers where they belong.
- **Creates incentives for waste reduction** (less use of unnecessary plastic packaging) through fees and other mechanisms.
- **Enhances recycling of plastic packaging** through a range of mechanisms including incentivizing recyclable packaging, better sorting of materials (eliminating contamination and producing more marketable materials), funding for reprocessing and marketing of plastics, and public education.



**Creates new jobs here in Washington** as we build domestic markets for plastics and invest in recycling and processing facilities here at home.

**Program based on successful models** in British Columbia and Europe. Recycle BC has reported a 75% recovery rate for packaging in 2017.

### This bill results in the recycling system working. It will clean up the system and create new jobs.

#### **Existing jobs stay put and new jobs created**

- **Local haulers and recycling companies would continue their current operations** and would receive financial support to handle the plastic items.
- New local jobs in Washington would be created because the program would be **incentivized to upgrade equipment and build new facilities here to process and re-manufacture plastics here**, rather than sending contaminated bales to foreign countries for processing.

**Incentivizes the use of recyclable packaging** and plastic packaging design innovations that are good for the environment through reduced costs to those manufacturers who innovate.

# Plastic Packaging Stewardship Legislation Overview

Requirement that **manufacturers** of plastic packaging sold for use in WA:



**Stewardship Plans** will address the following elements:

- Widespread, convenient, and equitable access to collection opportunities of plastic packaging
- Sorting of plastics to ensure higher marketability
- Reprocessing and marketing of plastics
- Prevention and collection of plastic litter
- Public education and outreach

Producers of plastic packaging will pay **charges** accessed by stewardship organization to fund the stewardship plan

Charges pay for implementation of program/plan.

Charge structure rewards manufacturers who:

- Use less plastic
- Use plastic packaging that is more easily recyclable

**Recycled content standards** for certain plastic products:

To increase the value of recycled plastic resin (and thus recyclables), the bill contains recycled content standards for certain types of plastic packaging:

- Film bags, shipping envelopes and shipping air bags.
- Rigid plastic packaging containers (i.e., bottles and cartons)
- Plastic collection bins

\* *includes post-consumer recycled content credit trade mechanism*