

Excerpt from INDA's Washington Alert, April 2019

Produced and edited by Jessica Franken, Director of Government Affairs, INDA

Single-Use Packaging, Products Bill in California Passes State Senate Environmental Committee

A bill introduced in California that looks to establish a comprehensive plan to "reduce and recycle" 75% of single-use packaging and single-use products by 2030 passed out of the California Senate Environmental Quality Committee on March 19. The *California Circular Economy and Plastic Pollution Reduction Act* (SB 54) now moves to the Senate Appropriations Committee. Meanwhile, the measure's companion bill in California General Assembly, AB 1080, passed out of the Assembly Natural Resources Committee on March 25 and was re-referred back to the Committee on Appropriations.

As we reported last month, this legislation does not define what items are included in the scope of the term "single-use products," leaving it to the California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle) to make that determination at a later date.

This bill takes a phased approach, calling for manufacturers of single-use plastic packaging and products distributed and sold in California to show a recycling rate of at least 20% by Jan. 1, 2022, and at least 40% by 2026. By 2030, all products would have to be "recyclable or compostable."

The bill would require the department, on or before January 1, 2021, to prepare and approve a scoping plan to set a baseline for and to achieve those reduction and recycling requirements. Various stakeholders would have an opportunity to provide input on the plan developed.

Under the measure, CalRecycle would be tasked with adopting regulations that:

- Require businesses to source reduce single-use packaging and products via mechanisms such as reducing excess packaging and transitioning single-use packaging and products to reusable packaging and products.
- Recycle and require businesses to source reduce, at least 75 percent of single-use plastic packaging and products by 2030.
- Require that all single-use packaging and products distributed or sold in California are recyclable or compostable on and after 2030.
- Develop incentives and policies to maximize and encourage in-state manufacturing using recycled material generated in California.
- Develop economic mechanisms to reduce the distribution of single-use packaging and products.

- Discourage, to the extent feasible, the litter, export, or improper disposal of single-use packaging, products, and other materials likely to harm the environment or public health in California or elsewhere in the world.

According to the legislation, options for achieving these goals may include:

- Establishing labeling requirements for certain single-use packaging and products;
- Identifying priority single-use packaging and product materials for reduction actions;
- Adopting voluntary guidelines for manufacturers and retailers to reduce packaging waste (e.g., take-back opportunities, deposit systems, or similar mechanisms);
- Export notification requirements;
- Establishing minimum postconsumer recycled content requirements for single-use packaging and products;
- Annual reporting requirements;
- And more.

To view this legislation, click [here](#). If you have any questions, please contact INDA Director of Government Affairs Jessica Franken at jfranken@inda.org.