

S 3944

Break Free From Plastic Pollution Act of 2020

Congress: 116 (2019–2021, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Environmental Protection

Introduced: Jun 11, 2020

Current Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

Latest Action: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works. (Jun 11, 2020)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/senate-bill/3944>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Udall, Tom [D-NM]

Party: Democratic • **State:** NM • **Chamber:** Senate

Cosponsors

No cosponsors are listed for this bill.

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Environment and Public Works Committee	Senate	Referred To	Jun 11, 2020

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Environmental Protection

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
116 HR 5845	Related bill	Feb 12, 2020: Referred to the Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment.
116 S 3263	Related bill	Feb 11, 2020: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance.

Break Free From Plastic Pollution Act of 2020

This bill sets forth requirements related to waste and recycling collection systems for a variety of products and materials, including plastics.

The bill makes certain producers of products (e.g., packaging, paper, single-use products, beverage containers, or food service products) fiscally responsible for collecting, managing, and recycling or composting the products after consumer use. In addition, the bill establishes (1) minimum percentages of products that must be reused, recycled, or composted; and (2) an increasing percentage of recycled content that must be contained in beverage containers.

Beginning on January 1, 2022, the bill phases out a variety of single-use products, such as plastic utensils. The bill also sets forth provisions to encourage the reduction of single-use products, including by establishing programs to refund consumers for returning beverage containers.

The bill creates a temporary moratorium on new or expanded permits for facilities that manufacture plastics until regulations are updated to address pollution from the facilities.

The Environmental Protection Agency must publish guidelines for a national standardized labeling system for recycling and composting receptacles. Producers must include labels on their products that are easy to read and indicate whether the products are recyclable, compostable, or reusable.

Finally, the bill establishes limitations on the export of plastic waste to other countries.

Actions Timeline

- **Jun 11, 2020:** Introduced in Senate
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