



ENVIRONMENTAL  
ADVOCATES OF NEW YORK

# SUPPORTS



Key to Legislative Ratings:

🌲🌲🌲 Major Benefit

🌲🌲 Substantial Benefit

🌲 Beneficial

## PLASTIC BAG RECYCLING

**S.8643-A (Marcellino)**

**A.11725 (Rules)**

### Summary

This bill would require retailers to provide a location on premises to facilitate the recycling of plastic bags and offer consumers the option of purchasing reusable bags. This bill would also require plastic bags to carry a recycling message. All fines collected from non-compliance would be deposited into the Environmental Protection Fund.

### Explanation

According to the Wall Street Journal, over 100 billion plastic shopping bags are consumed annually in the United States. These bags either end up as litter or take up valuable space in landfills. These bags do not biodegrade; rather they break down into smaller bits that then contaminate soils and waterways, often harming birds and marine species. In addition, the production of these plastic bags requires vast volumes of petroleum—over 12 million barrels of oil every year.

Many countries across the globe have already taken major steps to phase out/eliminate plastic bag use, including Australia, Bangladesh, Belgium, Great Britain, Ireland, Italy, South Africa and Taiwan. This bill would encourage the recycling of plastic bags, while at the same time promoting the use of reusable bags.

**Environmental Advocates of New York supports this bill.**

**Memo 21**