

HB 2334 -- AUXILIARY CONTAINERS

SPONSOR: Shaul (113)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Economic Development by a vote of 9 to 3. Voted "Do Pass" by the Rules- Legislative Oversight Committee by a vote of 9 to 2.

This bill preempts any political subdivision from imposing a ban, fee, or tax upon the use of auxiliary containers including paper or plastic bags and other materials as defined in the bill. However, this bill does not apply to the use of auxiliary containers on county or city property, or any political subdivision's ordinance or agreement regarding recycling or solid waste disposal.

This bill is the same as HB 1116 (2017).

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that this bill improves and expands current restrictions on political subdivisions regarding plastic bag regulation. Businesses should be able to use whatever packages for their products without being taxed or imposed a fee. The rules of commerce should be set at the state level, with deference to free market mechanisms unless uniformity is needed.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Shaul; Missouri Petroleum Makers and Convenience Store Association; Missouri Chamber of Commerce and Industry; Missouri Restaurant Association; and Matt Seaholm, Plastics Industry Association.

OPPOSERS: Those who oppose the bill say that this bill preempts local control, and prevents political subdivisions from protecting public health and ensuring environmental stewardship. Single use plastic containers are a misuse of resources.

Testifying against the bill was Terry Ganey.

OTHERS: Others testifying on the bill say that styrofoam is not actually a cheap product, but rather its external costs manifests in its disproportionate share of landfill space, harm to wildlife, and water quality deterioration. Less than 1% of all styrofoam is recycled.

Testifying on the bill was Francis Klahr, Green Dining Alliance.