

STUDENT SENATE BILL 2024-1212

**TITLE: RESOLUTION CONDEMNING FLORIDA HOUSE BILL 1641 AND
FLORIDA SENATE BILL 1126**

AUTHOR(S): Green Caucus Chair Zoe Richter

**SPONSOR(S): Senator Arturo Zárrate, Minority Party Leader Nathaniel Pelton,
Senator Meagan Lamey, Senator Sarah Hoffer, Senator Hunter Monson, Senator
Raj Mia, Senator Isha Khan**

WHEREAS, the EPA reports that “Containers and packaging make up a major portion of municipal solid waste (MSW), amounting to 82.2 million tons of generation in 2018 ” [1]; and,

WHEREAS, in 2018, 82.2 million tons accounted for 28.1% of total waste generation in the United States [1]; and,

WHEREAS, in 2018, a record 53.9% percent of generated containers and packing were recycled compared to 38% in 2000 [1]; and,

WHEREAS, the Containers and Packaging category accounts for the most plastic tonnage at 14.5 million tons in 2018 [2]; and,

WHEREAS, the lifetime environmental and economic cost, including pollution and mitigation, is not generally accounted for in the pricing and production of plastic containers [3]; and,

WHEREAS, the lifetime cost of global plastic production in 2019 is estimated at 3.7 trillion USD, with a margin of error of one trillion USD [3]; and,

WHEREAS, Florida Statute 403.7033 currently recognizes the necessity of “prudent regulation of recyclable materials is crucial to the ongoing welfare of Florida’s ecology and economy” [4]; and,

WHEREAS, environment Florida Advocate, Mia McCormick, reports that plastic containers make up the majority of litter pollution collected in state clean ups [5]; and,

WHEREAS, polls conducted by Ipsos showed that 87% of Florida Voters support local, state, and national policies to reduce single-use plastics and that 92% of Florida voters are concerned about single use plastics [6]; then,

WHEREAS, House Bill 1641 and Senate Bill 1126 are identical bills disallowing local governments, local government agencies, or state governmental agencies from enacting “any rule, regulation, or ordinance regarding use, disposition, sale, prohibition, restriction, or tax of auxiliary containers” [7][8]; and,

WHEREAS, the bills strike language requiring the Florida Legislature to adopt the recommendations of the United States Environmental Protections Agency [7][8]; and,

WHEREAS, over 500 cities and 12 states in the United States have laws regulating or prohibiting single-use plastic bags, a container included within House Bill 1641’s definition of auxiliary container [5]; and,

WHEREAS, the City of Gainesville Municipal Government prohibits the use of single use straws and stirrers and strictly regulates the use of single-use plastic utensils and containers for food providers under the Zero Waste Ordinances [9]; and,

WHEREAS, House Bill 1641 and Senate Bill 1126 would nullify the City of Gainesville’s aforementioned Zero Waste Ordinances as well the laws of 19 Florida Municipalities with prohibitions on polystyrene or single-use plastic containers [5]; then,

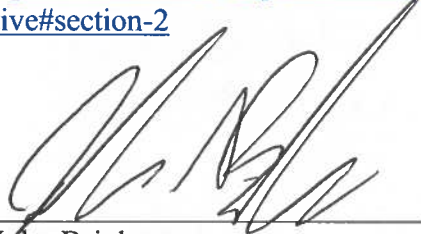
THEREFORE, LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, the University of Florida Student Senate condemns House Bill 1641 and Senate Bill 1126; then,

THEREFORE, LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, the Student Senate affirms its support of the local government, local government agencies, or state governmental agencies legal right to regulate auxiliary containers; then,

THEREFORE, LET IT FINALLY BE RESOLVED THAT, The University of Florida Student Senate commits itself to supporting and protecting Florida’s environment.

Proviso: A copy of this bill will be sent to Florida House Representative Bradford Yaeger, Florida House Representative Anna Eskamani, UF Office of Sustainability Program Coordinator Kaylee August, UF Office of Sustainability Director Matthew Williams

- [1] <https://www.epa.gov/facts-and-figures-about-materials-waste-and-recycling/containers-and-packaging-product-specific>
- [2] <https://www.epa.gov/facts-and-figures-about-materials-waste-and-recycling/plastics-material-specific-data#:~:text=While%20plastics%20are%20found%20in,14.5%20million%20tons%20in%202018.>
- [3] <https://europe.nxtbook.com/nxteu/wwfintl/tcops/index.php#/p/14>
- [4] http://www.leg.state.fl.us/statutes/index.cfm?App_mode=Display_Statute&URL=0400-0499/0403/Sections/0403.7033.html
- [5] <https://environmentamerica.org/florida/articles/new-florida-legislation-would-restrict-local-plastic-bag-bans/>
- [6] https://usa.oceana.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/4/Oceana-Plastic-Pollution-Survey_Florida_Ipsos-Reviewed.pdf
- [7] <https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2024/1641/BillText/c1/PDF>
- [8] <https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2024/1126/BillText/c1/PDF>
- [9] <https://www.gainesvillefl.gov/Government-Pages/Government/Departments/Public-Works/Garbage-Recycling/Zero-Waste-Initiative#section-2>


John Brinkman
Senate President

3/1/2024
Date