

**ORDINANCE NO. 2015-5  
TOWN OF BARRINGTON**

**AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND**

**Chapter 161**

**SOLID WASTE**

\* \* \*

**Article III**

**Reusable Checkout Bag Initiative**

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**§161-6. Purpose:**

The purpose of this ordinance is to improve the environment in Barrington and the health, safety, and welfare of its resident by encouraging the use of reusable checkout bags and banning the use of ~~single-use~~ plastic bags for retail checkout of goods. Retail establishments are encouraged to make reusable bags available for sale.

**§161-7. Definitions.**

***Checkout bag:***

Any carry-out bag that is provided to the customer at the point of sale. "Checkout bag" does not include plastic barrier bags, double-opening plastic bags, plastic bags measuring larger than 28 inches by 36 inches, reusable bags or recyclable paper bags.

***Double opening plastic bags:***

Any thin plastic bag with a double opening (top and bottom) to protect clothing or other items for transport.

***Plastic barrier bag:***

Any thin plastic bag with a single opening used to:

- A. Transport fruit, vegetables, nuts, grains, small hardware items, or other items selected by customers to the point of sale;
- B. Contain or wrap fresh or frozen foods, meat, or fish, whether prepackaged or not;
- C. Contain or wrap flowers, potted plants, or other items where damage to a good or contamination of other goods placed together in the same bag may be a problem; or
- D. Contain unwrapped prepared foods or bakery goods.

***Recyclable paper bag:***

A paper bag that is fully recyclable overall and contains a minimum of 40% post-consumer recycled content and contains no old growth fiber. The bag should display the words

"Reusable" and "Recyclable" or the universal recycling logo on the outside of the bag in green lettering at least one inch in size.

***Retail sales establishment:***

Any enterprise whereby the sale or transfer to a customer of goods in exchange for payment occurring in retail stores, farmers' markets, flea markets, and restaurants. This does not include sales of goods at yard sales, tag sales, other sales by residents at their homes, and sales by nonprofit organizations.

***Reusable bag:***

A bag with handles that is specifically designed and manufactured for multiple reuse, and is made primarily of cloth or other ~~fabric~~ woven or non-woven textile ~~or is made of durable plastic that is at least 2.25 mils thick,~~ or is constructed of multiple layers for insulation.

***§161-8. Prohibited acts.***

- A. No retail sales establishment shall make available any plastic checkout bags at the point of sale, not including plastic barrier bags or double-opening plastic bags.
- B. All retail sales establishments that provide plastic barrier bags or double opening plastic bags must offer a recycling opportunity onsite for the recycling of any plastic bags or clean plastic film as defined by the Rhode Island Resource Recovery Corporation RESTORE program.**
- C. Nothing in this section shall preclude persons engaged in retail sales from making reusable bags or recyclable paper bags available for sale to customers.

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This ordinance shall take effect on December 1, 2015.

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Council Member

Filed: \_\_\_\_\_

Introduced: \_\_\_\_\_

Adopted: \_\_\_\_\_