HOUSE BILL No. 2625

By Committee on Commerce, Labor and Economic Development

AN ACT concerning paper or plastic carryout bags and other single-use plastic items; prohibiting the regulation of such items by municipalities.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Kansas:

Section 1. (a) A municipality shall not enact or enforce any ordinance, resolution, regulation, charge, fee or tax relating to the use by stores or food service establishments, or the provision to their customers, of single-use plastic carryout bags, paper carryout bags, single-use plastic stirrers, single-use plastic straws, expanded polystyrene food service products or any single-use plastic product.

(b) Any ordinance, resolution or regulation prohibited by subsection (a) that was adopted prior to July 1, 2020, shall be null and void.

(c) As used in this section:

(1) "Carryout bag" means a bag provided by a store or food service establishment to a customer at the point of sale for the purpose of transporting groceries or retail goods, packaging prescription medications, or provided inside the store or food service establishment to package loose items, such as fruits, vegetables, nuts, coffee, grains, bakery goods, candy, greeting cards or small hardware items, or containing or wrapping foods or flowers or a laundry, dry cleaning or garment bag provided to protect or transport clothing or garments.

(2) "Expanded polystyrene" means blown polystyrene and expanded and extruded foams that are thermoplastic petrochemical materials using a styrene monomer and processed by a number of techniques, including: Fusion of polymer spheres, known as expandable bead 20 polystyrene; injection molding; foam molding; and extrusion blow molding, also known as extruded foam polystyrene.

(3) (A) "Expanded polystyrene food service product" means a product made of expanded polystyrene or nonfoam polystyrene that is:

(i) Used for selling, packaging or providing food or beverages to customers; and

(ii) generally recognized by the public as an item to be discarded after one use.

(B) "Expanded polystyrene food service product" includes:

(i) Food containers, plates, hot and cold beverage cups, trays, cartons for eggs or other food and packaging for food or beverages for transport to
a food service establishment or store; or

(ii) products made of expanded polystyrene that are used to package raw, uncooked or butchered meat, fish, poultry or seafood.

(4) "Food service establishment" means an entity that prepares or serves food for sale to the public, including restaurants, temporary food vendors, caterers, mobile food units, coffee shops, cafeterias, short-order cafes, luncheonettes, grills, tea rooms, sandwich shops, soda fountains, taverns, private clubs, roadside kitchens, commissaries, temporary food vendors and caterers.

(5) "Municipality" means a city, county or unified government.

(6) "Plastic" means a synthetic material made from linking monomers through a chemical reaction to create a polymer chain that can be molded or extruded at high heat into various solid forms that retain their defined shapes during their life cycle and after disposal, including material derived from either petroleum or a biologically based polymer, such as corn or other plant sources.

(7) "Point of sale" means a check-out stand, cash register or other point of departure from a store or food service establishment, including the location where remotely ordered food or products are delivered to a customer.

(8) "Single-use plastic carryout bag" means a carryout bag that is:

(A) Made of plastic;
(B) a single-use product; and
(C) not a reusable carryout bag.

(9) "Single-use plastic stirrer" means a utensil that is:

(A) Used to mix beverages;
(B) made predominantly of plastic; and
(C) a single-use product.

(10) "Single-use product" or "single use" means a product that is generally recognized by the public as an item to be discarded after one use.

(11) "Store" means a grocery store, supermarket, convenience store, liquor store, drycleaner, pharmacy, drug store or other retail establishment that provides carryout bags to its customers.

Sec. 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its publication in the statute book.