

Legislation Text

File #: ID-5601, **Version:** 1

Narrative of Resolution:

Support of Product Stewardship and Urging the Establishment of a Stewardship Program for Packaging and Printed Paper

If Resolution requires expenditure of County Funds, provide the following information:

Amount to be authorized by Resolution: \$0

Are funds already budgeted? Choose an item.

Specify Compliance with Procurement Procedures:

RESOLUTION INTRODUCED BY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE IN SUPPORT OF PRODUCT STEWARDSHIP AND URGING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM FOR PACKAGING AND PRINTED PAPER

WHEREAS, more than 18 million tons of municipal solid waste (MSW) is generated each year in New York State; and

WHEREAS, 70 percent of MSW is made up of discarded products and packaging; and

WHEREAS, greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from the waste sector represent about 12 percent of statewide emissions; and

WHEREAS, the most significant GHG emissions impact during the lifecycle of products and packaging result not from disposal but from the production of products and packaging that eventually become waste; and

WHEREAS, the Sullivan County Legislature wishes to express support for broad Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) or product stewardship requirements to cover the end-of-life management of post-consumer products and that EPR should be a priority for addressing emissions from the waste sector; and

WHEREAS, Governor Kathy Hochul introduced the Waste Reduction and Recycling Infrastructure Act as part of her Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 Executive Budget proposal to create an EPR program for packaging and paper products; and

WHEREAS, bills to create an EPR program for packaging and paper products have also been introduced by Senator Peter Harkham (S.4246) and by Senator Rachel May and Assembly member Steve Englebright (S.9493/A.10185); and

WHEREAS, these EPR programs would significantly reduce waste and single-use plastic packaging and would require producers to take responsibility for the end-of-life

management of their own packaging and invest in modernizing the operations at local recycling facilities; and

WHEREAS, S.9493/A.10185 and S.4246 would also prohibit certain toxic and dangerous chemicals in packaging, including per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), ortho-phthalates, bisphenols, halogenated flame retardants, such heavy metals as lead, cadmium and mercury, and other chemicals posing a threat to human health and safety and to the environment; and

WHEREAS, not only would such an EPR program provide relief to local governments, but it would also reduce GHG emissions from the production and disposal of consumer goods by incentivizing producers to reduce waste and design products that are more sustainable.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Sullivan County Legislature supports EPR as a policy tool to make producers legally and financially responsible for mitigating the environmental impacts of their products and packaging; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Sullivan County Legislature urges the Governor and Legislature to enact an EPR program for packaging and printed paper to reduce waste by at least 20 percent within five years and 50 percent within 10 years and shift the burden of managing the ever-evolving packaging waste stream away from taxpayers and local governments and onto producers and manufacturers; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Sullivan County Legislature supports an EPR program that prohibits toxic and dangerous chemicals in packaging, including those chemicals listed in bills S.9493/A.10185 and S.4246, to protect public health and safety and avoid costs associated with their production, transport, use, and disposal, including public health costs, costs of environmental remediation, and costs of responding to such accidents as the recent derailment in East Palestine, Ohio of a train carrying vinyl chloride; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Sullivan County Legislature urges local government representation on the advisory council created to implement and oversee the program; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, NYSAC urges the Governor and Legislature to also create an EPR framework to enable the State to create stewardship requirements for additional products with significant GHG impacts; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Sullivan County shall forward copies of this resolution to Governor Kathy Hochul, Sullivan County representatives of the New York State Legislature, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) Commissioner Basil Seggos, and all others deemed necessary and proper.