

# Plastic Bag Ban Debate Now Shifts to Massachusetts House

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By [Associated Press](#), Wire Service Content Nov. 24, 2019, at 11:04 a.m.

Plastic Bag Ban Debate Now Shifts to Massachusetts House

**BOSTON (AP) — ACTION ON** a bill that would create a statewide ban on all carry-out plastic bags from stores now shifts to the [Massachusetts](#) House.

The bill approved by the Massachusetts Senate this week would require retailers to charge at least 10 cents for a recycled paper bag.

Five cents would go to the city or town for enforcement of the ban and other municipal recycling efforts. The remainder would go to the retailer to cover the cost of paper bags.

More than 100 Massachusetts communities already have plastic bag bans.

Some small businesses argue the bill would increase costs for store owners and shoppers.

Eight states — [California](#), [Connecticut](#), [Delaware](#), [Hawaii](#), [Maine](#), [New York](#), [Oregon](#) and [Vermont](#) — have banned single-use plastic bags, according to the National Conference of State Legislatures.

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# Massachusetts Senate to debate a plastic bag ban

By [Janelle Nanos](#) Globe Staff, November 18, 2019, 7:03 p.m.



AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES/FILE

The state Senate this week is scheduled to debate a bill banning single-use plastic bags.

On Monday, Senate president Karen Spilka announced legislation that would outlaw single-use plastic bags statewide and require a 10-cent fee on paper

bags used during checkout. Senators are scheduled to vote on the measure Wednesday.

**Lawmakers have tried to institute a statewide ban on single-use plastic for more than a dozen years.** The current Senate bill is the work of a coalition of environmental, retail, and municipal groups.

Support for a ban has picked up momentum, as more than 120 cities and towns throughout the state have enacted their own laws. A number of neighboring states, including New York, Vermont, and Connecticut, already have passed laws outlawing plastic bags.

The House version of the Massachusetts bag ban bill seemed in jeopardy this summer after several key components, including a fee on paper bags, were removed in closed-door committee meetings. Many in the bag ban coalition argued that the committee had [weakened the legislation to the point where they feared it might do more harm than good.](#)

Deirdre Cummings, legislative director at MassPIRG, said she was heartened that the Senate bill keeps the fees intact.