

American Legion Auxiliary  
New Mexico Girls State  
**Bill**



Principal Author: Dominique Montano

Bill No: 27 Committee: D

Status:

Passed by:  Committee  House  Senate  Governor

Failed by:  Committee  House  Senate  Governor

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Simple Title of Bill: Ban Polystyrene Food and Drink Containers

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SENATE BILL

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**72<sup>nd</sup> SESSION – AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY NEW MEXICO GIRLS STATE – 2019**

3

INTRODUCED BY

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*Dominique Montano*

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AN ACT

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**Relating to pollution; banning single-use Styrofoam food and drink containers;**

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**negative health and environmental impacts; Alternatives**

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BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY NEW

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MEXICO GIRLS STATE:

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SECTION 1. BAN – Sale and use of Styrofoam food and drink containers are prohibited.

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Styrofoam is lightweight, which means it gets blown into streets, storm pipes, streams, and

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waterways, and is a main component of marine debris. It is non-biodegradable and

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resistant to photolysis. Thought it can be recycled, many recycling companies

1 no longer accept polystyrene products. Polystyrene is made from petroleum, a non-  
2 sustainable resource. Styrene, a component of polystyrene is classified as a carcinogen to  
3 humans. When regularly exposed to styrene manufactures, health effects include skin, eye,  
4 upper respiratory tract irritation, and gastro intestinal issues. Manufacturing also releases  
5 57 chemicals by products into the atmosphere. Polystyrene can leach into food, which is  
6 accentuated if food is reheated in the container.

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8 SECTION 2. ALTERNATIVES – Consumers are limited to more sustainable alternatives.  
9 This, mushroom material, bamboo fiber, peat plastic, sugarcane, or any other sustainable,  
10 biodegradable product. Standard polystyrene doesn't biodegrade. While it looks like it is,  
11 it's really just breaking down its not smaller and smaller pieces. It never truly goes away.  
12 It's near impossible to repurpose because the polystyrene is already expanded. Other  
13 plastics and paper are just as detrimental to the environment. Neither is very recyclable  
14 when used for food. Paper manufacturing is laborious and time consuming, and terrible for  
15 the environment. Manufacturing of polystyrene is bad too. Virgin styrene monomers are  
16 heated, causing the styrene units to attach to one another and create polystyrene. It is then  
17 pumped with air and shaped into what it's needed for. Polystyrene is 95% air, which is how  
18 it's so lightweight.

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20 SECTION 3 – POLYSTYRENE USE PENALTY – Any person who sells an/or uses  
21 polystyrene food and drink containers for personal or commercial use shall be punished by  
22 a fine of not more than \$100 or by imprisonment for a definite term not to exceed 3 months,  
23 or both.

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- 1 **All laws, acts, provisions, or parts of laws contained in the Constitution of the State**
- 2 **of New Mexico in conflict with any provision of this act are hereby repealed.**
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- 4 The provisions of this act shall be effective on and after January 1, 2021.