

HOUSE No. 2087

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Frank I. Smizik and Michael Barrett

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the passage of the accompanying bill:

An Act to restrict the use of polystyrene.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
<i>Frank I. Smizik</i>	<i>15th Norfolk</i>
<i>Michael Barrett</i>	<i>Third Middlesex</i>
<i>Ruth B. Balsler</i>	<i>12th Middlesex</i>
<i>Lori A. Ehrlich</i>	<i>8th Essex</i>
<i>Tom Sannicandro</i>	<i>7th Middlesex</i>
<i>Kay Khan</i>	<i>11th Middlesex</i>
<i>Daniel A. Wolf</i>	<i>Cape and Islands</i>
<i>Mary S. Keefe</i>	<i>15th Worcester</i>
<i>Thomas M. Stanley</i>	<i>9th Middlesex</i>
<i>Denise Provost</i>	<i>27th Middlesex</i>
<i>Sarah K. Peake</i>	<i>4th Barnstable</i>
<i>James B. Eldridge</i>	<i>Middlesex and Worcester</i>
<i>Jonathan Hecht</i>	<i>29th Middlesex</i>
<i>Aaron Vega</i>	<i>5th Hampden</i>
<i>Paul R. Heroux</i>	<i>2nd Bristol</i>
<i>Timothy R. Madden</i>	<i>Barnstable, Dukes and Nantucket</i>
<i>Cory Atkins</i>	<i>14th Middlesex</i>
<i>Denise Andrews</i>	<i>2nd Franklin</i>

Thomas P. Conroy

13th Middlesex

HOUSE No. 2087

By Mr. Smizik of Brookline and Senator Barrett, a joint petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 2087) of Frank I. Smizik and others relative to prohibiting the dispensing of food in disposable food service containers made from polystyrene or from expanded polystyrene. Public Health.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand Thirteen

An Act to restrict the use of polystyrene.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 An Act to Restrict the Use of Polystyrene

2 Chapter 111 of the general laws is hereby amended by inserting the following section 5T:

3 SECTION 1.

4 Definitions

5 “Disposable Food Container” means single-use disposable products used in the
6 restaurant, food service, and food sales industries for serving, transporting, or packaging
7 prepared, ready-to-consume, or uncooked food or beverages. This includes but is not limited to
8 plates, cups, bowls, trays, and hinged or lidded containers. This does not include single-use
9 disposable items such as straws, cup lids, or utensils.

10 “Food Establishment” means an operation that stores, prepares, packages, serves, vends,
11 or otherwise provides food for human consumption, including but not limited to any
12 establishment requiring a permit to operate in accordance with the State Food Code.

13 “Expanded Polystyrene” (EPS) means polystyrene that has been expanded or “blown”
14 using a gaseous blowing agent into a solid foam.

15 “Polystyrene” means and includes expanded polystyrene which is a thermoplastic
16 petrochemical material utilizing a styrene monomer and processed by any number of techniques
17 including, but not limited to, fusion of polymer spheres (expandable bead polystyrene), injection

18 molding, form molding, and extrusion-blow molding (extruded foam polystyrene). The term
19 “polystyrene” also includes clear or solid polystyrene, which is known as “oriented polystyrene”.

20 “Prepared Food” means any food or beverage prepared for consumption on the food
21 provider's premises, using any cooking or food preparation technique. This does not include any
22 raw uncooked meat, fish or eggs unless provided for consumption without further food
23 preparation.

24 SECTION 2.

25 Except as provided herein, food establishments are prohibited from dispensing food to
26 customers in disposable food service containers made from polystyrene or from expanded
27 polystyrene.

28 SECTION 3.

29 The commissioner of public health shall promulgate regulations for the enforcement of
30 the foregoing section, which regulations shall provide for fines not to exceed one thousand
31 dollars for any single violation and for deferments, in accordance with the following:

32 A. Upon written application to the health department of the town or city in which it
33 operates, and upon showing by the food establishment that the conditions of this provision would
34 cause undue hardship, the municipal health department or its designee may defer application of
35 this provision for a food establishment for a one year period. An “undue hardship” shall mean a
36 situation unique to the food establishment where there are no reasonable alternatives to the use of
37 expanded polystyrene disposable food service containers and compliance with this provision
38 would cause significant economic hardship to that food establishment.

39 B. A food establishment granted a deferment must reapply prior to the end of that period
40 and demonstrate continued undue hardship, if it wishes to have the deferment extended.
41 Deferments may only be granted for intervals not to exceed one year.

42 C. The application for a deferment or extension thereof shall include all information
43 necessary for the municipal health department or its designee to make its decision, including but
44 not limited to, documentation showing the factual support for the claimed deferment. The
45 municipal health department or its designee may require the applicant to provide such additional
46 information that it reasonably deems necessary to render a decision.

47 D. The municipal health department or its designee may approve the deferment
48 application, in whole or in part, with or without conditions.

49 SECTION 4.

50 No person shall purchase, and no person shall offer for purchase, or sell, or give away, or
51 otherwise distribute any cups made from polystyrene or from expanded polystyrene.