
HOUSE BILL 3282

State of Washington

60th Legislature

2008 Regular Session

By Representative Chase

1 AN ACT Relating to alternatives to petrochemical-based plastic and
2 styrofoam; and creating new sections.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that the global
5 production of plastic has significant environmental impacts each year,
6 including the consumption of millions of barrels of oil, and the deaths
7 of thousands of marine animals through ingestion and entanglement.
8 Each year, millions of plastic bottles and bags are put in landfills or
9 littered. Most plastic does not biodegrade. Most plastic photodegrades,
10 breaking into small bits of plastic. These small bits of plastic
11 contaminate soil and waterways and enter into the food web when animals
12 accidentally ingest these materials. The degradation of styrofoam in
13 nature may take several hundred years. Styrofoam is rarely recycled
14 because it is usually not cost-effective. While compostable plastics
15 are made from food crops such as corn, this has the potential to
16 reduce the global availability of food and increase prices. The
17 legislature recognizes the state's need for compostable plastics made
18 from nonfood crops and biomass as an alternative to petroleum-based

1 plastic bags, petroleum-based plastic bottles, and petroleum-based
2 styrofoam.

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** Washington State University is directed to
4 research and develop nonfood-based compostable plastic that can be used
5 in place of petroleum-based plastic bags, petroleum-based plastic
6 bottles, and petroleum-based styrofoam single-use food service
7 packaging.

8 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** Washington State University shall consult
9 with representatives from the petroleum-based plastic and
10 petroleum-based styrofoam industries and other stakeholders as deemed
11 appropriate by the university.

12 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** Washington State University shall present
13 its research in a report to the governor and to the legislature by
14 December 1, 2008. The report must include an evaluation of all
15 alternative nonfood-based compostable plastic researched and developed.
16 In evaluating alternatives, the university must consider:

17 (1) The environmental impacts caused by the cultivation and harvest
18 of the plant or plants that form the biobase of the alternative;

19 (2) The environmental impacts of manufacturing, use, composting,
20 recycling and disposal of the alternative;

21 (3) The effectiveness and performance of each alternative as a
22 replacement for petroleum-based plastic bags, petroleum-based plastic
23 bottles, and petroleum-based styrofoam; and

24 (4) The economic impacts of implementing each alternative option.

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