



HR1139

LRB099 21332 MST 47124 r

1 HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, Paper and plastic disposable bags are distributed
3 extensively throughout our society and are typically disposed
4 of after their initial use; and

5 WHEREAS, The rate of recycling of paper and plastic
6 disposable bags is extremely low, accounting for only 1-3% of
7 plastic bags and only 13-15% of paper bags; and

8 WHEREAS, Paper and plastic disposable bags consume
9 valuable natural resources in their production, increase waste
10 generation, and contribute to litter; and

11 WHEREAS, The impact of single-use retail plastic and paper
12 bags imposes a high cost on citizens in terms of recycling,
13 landfill space, sewer cleanup costs, and environmental damage;
14 and

15 WHEREAS, One million birds and 100,000 mammals are killed
16 annually from plastic in our environment; and

17 WHEREAS, Improper disposal results in plastic bags
18 becoming windblown through our streets and parks, clogging our
19 storm drains and sewers and degrading our soils and waterways;
20 and

1 WHEREAS, Those plastic bags that are blown or washed into
2 our waterways may threaten the lives of avian and marine
3 species through entanglement, choking, and toxicity; and

4 WHEREAS, Plastic bags, when landfilled, do not biodegrade
5 and remain intact for many decades; those that remain in the
6 environment photo-degrade into very small particles that may be
7 consumed by wildlife, diminishing and contaminating a part of
8 our food chain; and

9 WHEREAS, Locally, plastic bags must be screened out of yard
10 waste collections; they contaminate food scrap composting
11 facilities and have jammed the mechanical parts of recycling
12 balers and sewage treatment systems; and

13 WHEREAS, Single use plastics such as Styrofoam, clamshell
14 containers, and plastic bags, are unsustainable products,
15 manufactured from petroleum and natural gas; the energy used in
16 the production and transportation of plastic bags results in
17 unnecessary natural resource consumption and increased
18 greenhouse gas emissions; and

19 WHEREAS, The impacts of plastic bag use and pollution have
20 ignited a global movement to dramatically reduce the amount of
21 disposable plastic bags distributed; and

1 WHEREAS, There are successful plastic bag recycling
2 programs that exist throughout the country; and

3 WHEREAS, Convenient locations for the collection of
4 plastic bags to be recycled needs to be established; and

5 WHEREAS, Retail store employee awareness initiatives to
6 reduce wasteful bagging practices needs to be increased; and

7 WHEREAS, A program needs to be established in order to
8 promote the recycling of plastic and paper bags and the use of
9 reusable bags; and

10 WHEREAS, A unified and coordinated
11 education/advocacy/recycling program of this nature will
12 reflect a meaningful and positive step forward towards reducing
13 litter and plastic bag waste; and

14 WHEREAS, Many states have successfully enacted ordinances
15 banning or restricting the use of plastic bags; and

16 WHEREAS, These measures will help educate schools that need
17 to know about recycling waste; therefore, be it

18 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE

1 NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we
2 declare the first Friday of May 2016 as "Thin Film Friday"; and
3 be it further

4 RESOLVED, That "Thin Film Friday" is established in the
5 State of Illinois as an effort to reclaim used thin-film
6 plastic bags and to encourage consumers to use reusable bags.