

ACT NO. 8133

BILL NO. 32-0220

THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

Regular Session

2018

An Act amending title 29 Virgin Islands Code, chapter 8 to extend the ban on plastic bags to include disposable, plastic drinking straws, and plastic tubular stirrers and to allow the sale of reusable drinking straws

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Be it enacted by the Legislature of the Virgin Islands:

SECTION 1. Title 29 Virgin Islands Code, chapter 8 is amended in the following instances:

(a) Section 500t is amended by renumbering the affected paragraphs accordingly and inserting new paragraphs (6), (7), (9) and (12) to read as follows:

“(6) ‘Disposable’ means a product that is designed for a single use after which it is disposed of after use and disposed as solid waste.

(7) ‘Drinking straw’ means a thin tube for transferring a beverage from its container to the mouth of the drinker;

(9) ‘Plastic tubular stirrer’ means a thin, plastic straw usually used for stirring coffee, cocktails and other beverages.

(12) ‘Reusable’ means an item specifically designed and manufactured to be durable and made for multiple reuse.”

(b) Section 500u is amended as follows:

- (1) in the first sentence after “providing” by inserting “disposable, plastic drinking straws and plastic, tubular stirrers,”;
 - (2) at the end of paragraph (1) by striking “or”;
 - (3) at the end of paragraph (2) by striking the period (.) and inserting “; or”;
 - (4) by adding paragraph (3) to read: “(3) reusable drinking straws”; and
 - (5) by designating the existing language as subsection (a) and adding subsections (b) and (c) to read as follows: “(b) All businesses identified in section 500t are prohibited from purchasing or importing disposable, plastic drinking straws and plastic tubular stirrers into the Territory.
- (c) This section does not apply to:
- (1) Hospitals, nursing homes, hospices, and medical supply retailers;
 - (2) The importation, sale, purchase, or distribution of disposable, plastic drinking straws to a person for whom non-plastic alternatives are unsuitable due to a mental or physical condition that qualifies as a disability pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act (42 USC §2102).”
- (c) Section 500v is amended as follows:
- (1) Subsection (a) is amended
 - (A) in the introductory clause after “2017,” by inserting “with respect to plastic bags, and beginning October 1, 2019, with respect to disposable, plastic drinking straws and plastic tubular stirrers”;
 - (B) in paragraph (1) after “bags” by inserting “, disposable, plastic drinking straws or plastic tubular stirrers”;
 - (C) in paragraph (2) after “bags” by inserting “disposable, plastic drinking straws or plastic tubular stirrers” and
 - (2) subsection (b) is amended by striking “or” after “Authority” and by inserting “or the Department of Planning and Natural Resources” after “Department”.

Thus passed by the Legislature of the Virgin Islands on October 15, 2018.

Witness our Hands and Seal of the Legislature of the Virgin Islands this 24th Day of October, A.D., 2018.



A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Myron D. Jackson".

Myron D. Jackson
President

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jean A. Forde".

Jean A. Forde
Legislative Secretary



Bill No. 32-0220 is hereby approved.

Witness my hand and the seal of the Government of the United States Virgin Islands at Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas, this 10th day of November, 2018 A.D.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Kenneth E. Mapp".

**Kenneth E. Mapp
Governor**