

YMCA YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA

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Senate Bill Number 118

Legislative Action:

Introduced by: Dani Four Bear

House Committee: \_\_\_\_\_

Authored by: Dani Four Bear

House: \_\_\_\_\_

Senate Committee: \_\_\_\_\_

Delegation: Froid-Medicine Lake

Senate: \_\_\_\_\_

Governor: \_\_\_\_\_

Referred to Committee: Senate Natural Resources & Transportation Committee

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1 A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "BYOB—BRING YOUR OWN 'RECYCLABLE' BAG"

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3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE MONTANA YMCA YOUTH LEGISLATURE:

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5 **Section 1. Intent.** Americans use 48 billion plastic bags annually. Plastic bags are  
6 composed of oil and America's bag habit costs 1.6 billions gallons of oil a year. To reduce the  
7 effects of global warming and pollution and address the environmental issues caused by a  
8 proliferation of plastic bags, the Montana Department of Environmental Quality will establish a  
9 state wide program to limit the distribution and sale of plastic bags to none.

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11 **Section 2. Action.** Critics of plastic bags say they use up natural resources, consume  
12 energy to manufacture, create litter, choke marine life, and add to landfill waste. Countries  
13 including Ireland, Bangladesh, Taiwan, and China are working to eliminate plastic bag usage.  
14 In the United States San Francisco has successfully banned plastic bags. Montana can set a  
15 precedent in the U.S. by becoming the first state to reduce the use of plastic bags by imposing  
16 a charge for each plastic bag used.

17  
18 **Section 3. Enforcement.** Consumers will pay 5 cents for each plastic bag they get at the  
19 check out counter. The collected funds will pay for the marketing program urging the use of  
20 recyclable bags.

21  
22 **Section 4. Effective date.** This act shall become effective after passage.

23 **-end-**