

1 [Support of the Checkout Bag Charge and Recyclable or Compostable Pre-Checkout Bag
2 Ordinance File Number:190417]

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4 **Resolution urging the Board of Supervisors and the Mayor to adopt File Number**
5 **190417, an Ordinance amending the Environment Code to raise the amount stores**
6 **must charge for checkout bags from 10 cents to 25 cents per bag and to require that**
7 **pre-checkout bags provided to customers before they reach the point of sale be**
8 **recyclable paper or compostable.**

9 WHEREAS, The City and County of San Francisco has a duty to protect the natural
10 environment, the economy, and the health of its citizens; and,

11 WHEREAS, The City and County of San Francisco has a goal of achieving zero waste,
12 which includes the elimination of single-use plastic bags; and,

13 WHEREAS, At the Global Climate Action Summit in September 2018, Mayor Breed
14 committed San Francisco to new waste reduction targets that will require the City to reduce
15 total waste generation by 15%, and to reduce materials disposed by 50%, by 2030; and,

16 WHEREAS, Policies that promote reusable or compostable bags encourage the reuse
17 of materials, thereby conserving resources and protecting the environment; and,

18 WHEREAS, Americans use 100 billion plastic bags a year, which require 12 million
19 barrels of oil to manufacture; and,

20 WHEREAS, The average American family takes home almost 1,500 plastic shopping
21 bags and only 1% of plastic bags are recycled; and,

22 WHEREAS, The San Francisco Department of Environment sponsored a
23 groundbreaking ordinance in 2007 making it one of the first cities in the nation to prohibit
24 stores from providing single-use plastic checkout bags; and,

1 WHEREAS, The San Francisco Department of Environment sponsored a subsequent
2 ordinance in 2012 that added a mandatory 10-cent charge for other permitted checkout bag
3 types to promote reusables and reduce waste generation; and,

4 WHEREAS, In 2014, the State of California became the first state in the nation to pass
5 a bill to prohibit single-use plastic bags at point of sale and require a 10-cent minimum charge
6 for carryout bags provided at point of sale which became effective in November 2016 after
7 voters upheld the bill through a statewide referendum; and,

8 WHEREAS, Policies on single-use bags have been effective in encouraging
9 consumers to use reusable bags; and,

10 WHEREAS, Based on a survey conducted by the Department of the Environment in
11 2018, 43% of surveyed retailers in San Francisco offer plastic reusable checkout bags, 51%
12 offer recyclable paper bags and 6% offer both types; and,

13 WHEREAS, Santa Cruz reports that its 25-cent checkout bag charge has resulted in
14 significant change among customers, with 90% of customers now bringing their own bags. To
15 date, 11 cities and counties in California have mandated a checkout bag charge higher than
16 10 cents per bag; and,

17 WHEREAS, In 2016, with 40% of the population of the State of California covered by
18 local single-use plastic bag bans, coastal clean-up data for that year showed plastic grocery
19 bag litter had dropped by 66%; and,

20 WHEREAS, Supervisor Vallie Brown introduced an ordinance increasing the amount
21 stores must charge for checkout bags from 10-cents to 25-cents per bag and requiring that
22 pre-checkout bags provided to customers before they reach the point of sale be recyclable
23 paper or compostable; and,

24 RESOLVED, That the Commission on the Environment recognizes that an ordinance
25 discouraging single-use plastic bags at checkout and promoting recyclable paper or

1 compostable pre-checkout bags will help the City and County of San Francisco make
2 progress toward its goal of zero waste; and, be it,

3 FUTHER RESOLVED, That the Commission on the Environment urges the Board of
4 Supervisors and the Mayor to adopt File Number 190417, an ordinance ensuring single-use
5 bag reduction.

6 I hereby certify that this Resolution was adopted at the Commission on the
7 Environment's Meeting on May 28, 2019.

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11 Anthony Valdez, Commission Secretary

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13 Vote:

14 Ayes:

15 Noes:

16 Absent:

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