

*I Mina Trentai Kuattro Na Liheslaturan*  
**BILL STATUS**

BILL NO.	SPONSOR	TITLE	DATE INTRODUCED	DATE REFERRED	CMTE REFERRED	PUBLIC HEARING DATE	DATE COMMITTEE REPORT FILED	FISCAL NOTES
242-34 (COR)	Committee on Rules By request of Youth Congress, in accordance with 2 GCA § 7102.	AN ACT TO BAN THE SALE AND DISTRIBUTION OF FOSSIL FUEL BASED PLASTIC SHOPPING BAGS.	2/14/18 10:06 a.m.					

***I MINA' TRENTAI KUATTRO NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN***  
**2018 (SECOND) Regular Session**

Bill No. 242-34 (COR)

Introduced by:

Committee on Rules 

By request of Youth Congress, in  
accordance with 2 GCA § 7102

**AN ACT TO BAN THE SALES AND DISTRIBUTION OF  
FOSSIL FUEL BASED PLASTIC SHOPPING BAGS.**

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF GUAM:**

**Section 1. Legislative Findings and Intent.** *I Mina'Trentai Umu Na Kongressun Manhoben Guahan* finds that fossil fuel based plastic bags have environmental consequences. Plastic bags are known to end up in the ocean which can potentially impact the underwater ecosystem by choking animals, clogging their digestive system, or even starving our coral of sunlight. Living on an island where many people enjoy and provide their families through fishing, plastic bags also pose a threat to local fishing. Fossil fuel based plastic bags also take several decades to break down. This causes them to either crowd our landfills or to be blown away where they could hurt our wildlife or our oceans, even when they are properly disposed. Also, there are several more sturdy and less environmentally detrimental products such as paper bags or reusable shopping bags.

Furthermore, several countries already ban the use of these plastic bags. Japan, Korea and Australia, are just a few from a long list of countries. The island of Palau also has tackled this legislation, and their House of Representatives have already passed a measure relative to trying to ban plastic bags. Yap has also successfully passed and executed a ban on plastic bags as well. It would be

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1 advantageous for Guam to be seen as taking the step to protect our island's  
2 environment, as a tourist destination where our environment plays a significant  
3 role in our tourism.

4 **Section 2.** Beginning April 1, 2018, all businesses *shall* be taxed ten cents  
5 (\$0.10) per plastic bag imported. This revenue *shall* be deposited into the Wildlife  
6 Conservation Fund. This tax *shall* be in effect until October 1, 2018.

7 **Section 3.** Beginning April 1, 2018, no retail store or restaurant may  
8 distribute single use carry-out plastic bags at the cash register, point of sale or other  
9 point of departure, unless those bags are made available for purchase for no less  
10 than twenty-five cents (\$0.25) per bag. Violation of this section will result in a fine  
11 of Five Hundred Dollars (\$500) to the establishment for the first offense, and One  
12 Thousand Dollars (\$1000) for each following offense. Revenue from violations  
13 *shall* be deposited into the Wildlife Conservation Fund. This mandate *shall* be in  
14 effect until October 1, 2018.

15 **Section 4.** Beginning October 1, 2018, no retail store or restaurant may sell  
16 or provide single-use carry out plastic bags at the cash register, point of sale or  
17 other point of departure for the purpose of transporting food or merchandise out of  
18 the establishment.

19 **Section 5.** Beginning October 1, 2018, the importation of single-use carry  
20 out plastic bags in Guam *shall* be unlawful and punishable by a fine of ten (\$10)  
21 dollars per plastic bag imported. Revenue from violations *shall* be deposited into  
22 the Wildlife Conservation Fund.