



# Single-Use Bag Ban Guide for Farmers Market Vendors

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(A companion handout to [the "Bag FAQ" guide](#), provided by the DEQ.)

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HB 2509, also known as "The Sustainable Shopping Initiative," goes into effect on January 1, 2020. Here's what that means for farmers markets and their vendors:

## New Law: Vendors can NOT...

- X Provide a single-use checkout bag at the time of checkout (i.e., when you are taking money for a customer's purchases). (This applies to paper AND plastic.) (Exceptions below.)

## Exceptions: Vendors CAN ....

- ✓ Continue to provide self-serve, handle-less paper or plastic produce bags for customers while shopping, at a time other than checkout, in order to package bulk items such as fruit, vegetables, nuts, grains, etc.
  - ✓ Continue to provide paper or plastic bags at a time other than checkout to contain or wrap frozen food, meat, fish, flowers, a potted plant or another item for the purpose of addressing dampness or sanitation.
  - ✓ Continue to provide paper or plastic bags at a time other than checkout to contain unwrapped prepared foods or bakery goods.
  - ✓ Provide any of the following reusable bags, at the time of checkout, for a minimum \$.05 per bag charge\*: (a) a 4 mil thick plastic bag (*technically* considered a reusable bag), (b) a recycled paper bag (at least 40% post-consumer recycled fiber) or (c) a reusable fabric checkout bag, made out of cloth or other machine-washable fabric.
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Market Managers, here's how you can support your vendors and your customers in navigating this transition:

- Notify your vendors as soon as possible so they can get prepared.
- Check with your local jurisdiction to confirm what the minimum bag fee is in your area (see footnote below), so you can communicate it to your vendors.
- Encourage vendors to let customers do their own packaging whenever appropriate, prior to the time of checkout. Even if vendors help, it's best if customers initiate the activity, to avoid confusion as to where and when the "time of checkout" is.
- Start communicating early and in a positive manner to your customers that there is a new, important reason to bring their reusable bags to market!
- Sell high quality cloth bags or other washable, reusable shopping bags at your market's info booth.

*\* HB 2509 requires at least a five-cent fee across the state, but local governments may require a higher fee, so the minimum fee may vary, depending on the local jurisdiction. Retail est. and restaurants also may provide reusable checkout bags at no cost in certain situations. You should check with your local jurisdictions for the actual fee and refer back to the "Bag FAQ" guide, for when the fee may be waived.*