



SAINT CHRISTOPHER AND NEVIS

No. of 2025

A BILL to control and restrict the manufacture, importation, distribution, and sale of single-use plastic items to reduce the significant environmental impact of single-use plastics, including pollution of marine and terrestrial ecosystems, harm to wildlife, risks to human health and contribution to the overall waste management crisis by promoting sustainable alternatives, and safeguarding our natural resources for future generations.

BE IT ENACTED by the King's Most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the National Assembly of Saint Christopher and Nevis, and by the authority of the same as follows:

1. Short title and Commencement.

This Act may be cited as the Plastic Waste Reduction Act, 2025 and shall come into effect on the day appointed by the Minister by Order published in the Gazette.

2. Interpretation.

For the purposes of this Act, unless the context otherwise requires,

“alternatives” means substitute products including any goods, materials, or commodities that serve as functionally equivalent replacements for a restricted, prohibited, or otherwise regulated item under this Act;

“biodegradable material” means a material in which the degradation results from the action of naturally occurring micro-organisms such as bacteria, fungi, and algae;

“biodegradability” means

(a) the ability of organic substances to be broken down by micro-organisms in the presence of oxygen (aerobic) to carbon dioxide, water, biomass and mineral salts or any other elements that are present (mineralization); or

(b) the breakdown of organic substances by the micro-organism without the presence of oxygen (anaerobic) to carbon dioxide, methane, water and biomass.

“Bureau of Standards” means the Saint Christopher and Nevis Bureau of Standards as established under the Bureau of Standards and Quality Act, 2021;

“Competent Authority” means the designated governmental body or agency responsible for enforcing the provisions of this Act;

“compostable material” means items that can undergo biological decomposition in a compost site such that the material breaks down into carbon dioxide, water, inorganic compounds, and biomass at a rate consistent with known compostable materials;

“Comptroller” means the Comptroller of Customs appointed under section 79 of the Constitution and provided for under section 4 under the Customs Act, Cap.20.04;

“Customs and Excise Department” means the Customs and Excise Division of the Ministry of Finance as established under the Customs Act, Cap.20.04;

“Department of Environment” means the Department of the Environment established under the National Conservation and Environment Protection Act, Cap.11.03;

“microplastics” means small plastic pieces less than five millimetres long which can be harmful to our oceans and aquatic life.

“Minister” means the Minister with responsibility for the Environment;

“plastics” means a wide range of synthetic or semi-synthetic materials that use polymers as a main ingredient inclusive of single-use plastics, microplastics, and plastic packaging;

“plastic t-shirt Bags” means flexible, lightweight plastic bags with handles that resemble the shape of a t-shirt;

“reusable products” means items designed and manufactured to be used multiple times for the

same purpose;

“single-use plastic” means any non-biodegradable plastic product designed to be used once and disposed of, including plastic bags, straws, cutlery, plates, drink stirrers, and food packaging.

ADMINISTRATION

3. Competent Authority.

(1) For the purposes of this Act, the Department of Environment is designated as the Competent Authority.