



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE 12/19/2017**

**For further information, contact:**

Nichol Figueiredo, Public Information Officer & Webmaster  
Memorial Building  
150 Concord Street  
Framingham, MA 01702  
Tel: (508) 532-5437

**Plastic Bag Reduction Bylaw will take effect on January 1, 2018**

**Framingham, MA** – On January 1, 2018 the Plastic Bag Reduction Bylaw will go into effect. Under the bylaw, thin-film single-use plastic bags with handles are prohibited from being distributed at checkout. Thin-film plastic bags used to contain dry cleaning, newspapers, produce, meat, bulk foods, wet items, and other similar merchandise, typically without handles, are still permissible.

All retail establishments that provide a checkout bag to customers, such as grocery stores, convenience stores, pharmacies, liquor stores, household good stores, and other retailers must comply with this bylaw. The bylaw does not affect restaurants.

This bylaw seeks to reduce the number of plastic bags that are distributed, and promote the use of reusable checkout bags. This will help protect the marine environment, advance solid waste reduction, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and protect waterways.

Framingham is proud to be one of 60 communities in Massachusetts have now passed laws to regulate plastic bags. We encourage the community to visit the Plastic Bag Reduction Bylaw page, [www.framinghamma.gov/BYOB](http://www.framinghamma.gov/BYOB) for more information and to find resources for businesses, residents and customers alike.

###