PLASTIC BAG LEGISLATION IN COASTAL STATES

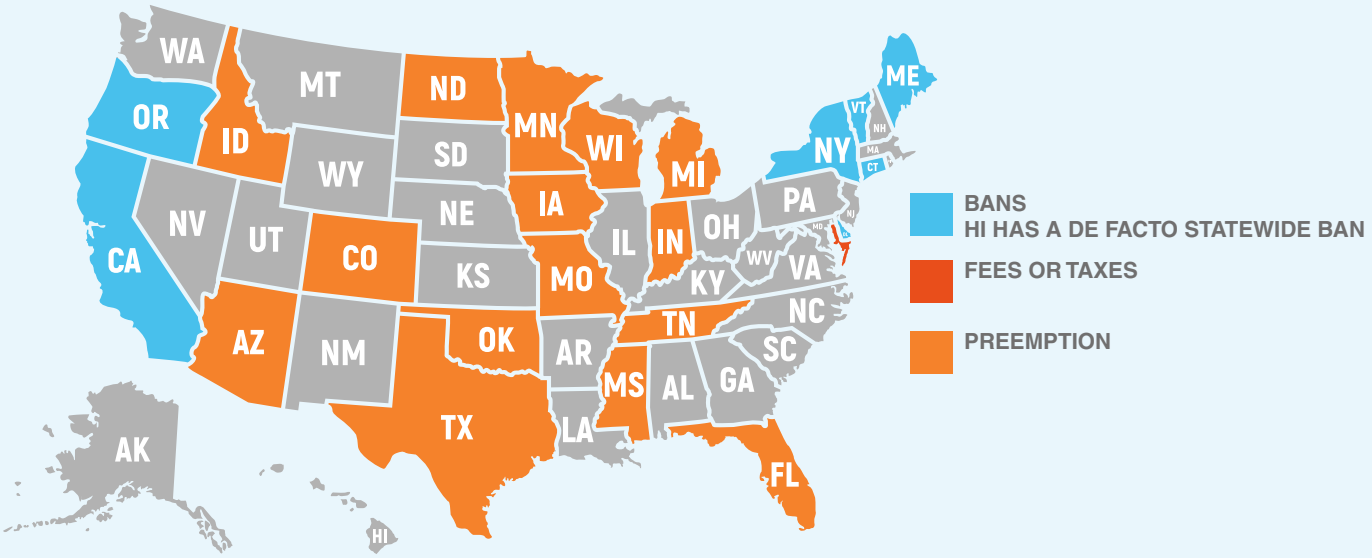
Many coastal states have placed partial or total bans on single-use plastic bags in efforts to reduce plastic waste in oceans, which has drastically affected consumer purchasing habits. Below are a few coastal states whose new laws are steering some consumers to paper bags.

California became the first state to impose a statewide ban on single-use plastic bags at large retailers. Eco-friendly bags must be clearly identifiable and meet certain specifications. Retailers may provide plastic bags for a 10-cent fee to consumers.

Maine created a workgroup comprised of state agencies to provide viable solutions to the checkout bag issue. These solutions aim to achieve environmental benefits, financial viability for manufacturers and avoid cost impacts.

New York recently introduced a ban on most single-use plastic bags, forcing some consumers to change to paper or cotton reusable bags. Individual counties can place a 5-cent fee on paper bags, with proceeds benefiting the Environmental Protection Fund.

Rhode Island promotes paper bag use by requiring retailers to offer paper bags to consumers. Those retailers still providing plastic bags must also provide receptacles for recycling clean bags.



*State laws are constantly changing. Check here for any updates on your state's legislation.
https://www.ncsl.org/research/environment-and-natural-resources/plastic-bag-legislation.aspx

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