



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

SEP 20 2018

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am signing Assembly Bill 1884.

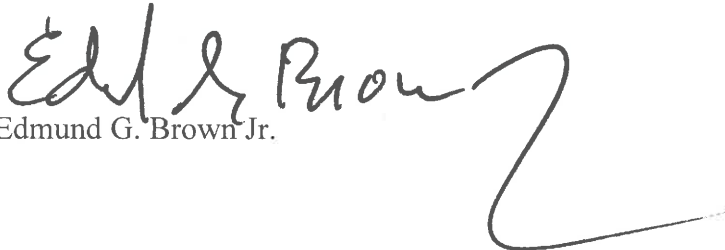
This bill prohibits dine-in restaurants from automatically providing plastic straws.

Plastic was first invented in the late 19th century and has become so ubiquitous it now pervades every aspect of our modern life. It is even found in toothpaste. By 2015, the annual global production of plastic reached 448 million tons. Plastic has helped advance innovation in our society, but our infatuation with single-use convenience has led to disastrous consequences.

Ocean plastic is estimated to kill millions of marine animals every year. In fact, after a dead pilot whale washed up in Thailand, researchers found 80 plastic bags in its stomach that had prevented the mammal from digesting food. Nor are humans immune as microplastics were recently found in tap water around the world. Plastics, in all forms—straws, bottles, packaging, bags, etc.—are choking our planet.

It is a very small step to make a customer who wants a plastic straw ask for it. And it might make them pause and think again about an alternative. But one thing is clear, we must find ways to reduce and eventually eliminate single-use plastic products.

Sincerely,


Edmund G. Brown Jr.