

## Law bans bottles, pallets from landfills

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RALEIGH — One state law taking effect on Thursday bans plastic bottles, oil filters and wooden pallets from landfills in North Carolina.

State and local officials say that the law is designed to encourage environmental responsibility and promote a growing recycling industry in North Carolina, not to catch people mixing plastic bottles within their trash.

“We’re not trashcan cops,” said Paul Crissman, chief of the solid waste section at the state’s Division of Waste Management. “We’re not going to tear open individual trash bags.”

Crissman said the state and local solid waste officials are trying to educate and encourage compliance, not catch someone and fine them.

Another goal of the law is to provide materials for the state’s growing recycling industry, Crissman said.

“This is going to help the state utilize resources in a more environmentally appropriate fashion,” Crissman said.

Crissman said the division is authorized by law to assess and administrative fine of anywhere from \$0 to \$15,000, but emphasized that the higher figure would not be charged for someone putting plastic bottles in a landfill.

“It would not be that much under any circumstances for bottles,” Crissman said.

Other new laws set to take place on Oct. 1 would:

- Clarify that violations of marine fisheries laws would be reported to officials in other states through an interstate compact.
- Allow municipalities to object to the site of an ABC store.
- Prohibit the sale of novelty lighters in the state. Novelty lighters are typically used to light cigarettes, cigars and pipes. They are designed to resemble a cartoon character, toy, gun, watch, musical instrument, vehicle, animal, food or beverage or play musical notes. The law was requested by the Child Fatality Task Force.
- Allow the Wildlife Resources Commission to provide exemptions from hunting licenses for special events when the events are deemed to be consistent with the conservation objectives of the commission.
- Prohibit a music group to falsely advertise or perform under the name of another group.
- Allow a registered veterinary technician and a certified rabies vaccinator to provide rabies vaccinations, along with veterinarians.
- Allow victims of identity theft easier ability to initiate a credit report freeze.
- Clarify that actions after a couple separates can’t be cause for alienation of affection lawsuits.
- Allow local governments to regulate golf carts on their streets and roads. Previously, they had to get permission from the General Assembly for such regulation.

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