

## 2021-J1702

Senate Resolution No. 1702

BY: Senator BIAGGI

MEMORIALIZING Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim  
July 2022, as Plastic Free Month in the State of New  
York

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to recognize  
official months that are set aside to increase awareness of serious  
issues that affect the lives of citizens of New York State; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern and in full accord with its  
long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to  
memorialize Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim July 2022, as Plastic Free  
Month in the State of New York; and

WHEREAS, The goal of the Plastic Free July initiative is to educate  
the people of New York of the importance of reusing, reducing, and  
recycling plastic items; Plastic Free July has gained momentum in over  
100 countries, with more than one million participants; and

WHEREAS, Plastic Free July continues to accentuate the importance of  
being green and continuing to reduce the amount of plastic we use in our  
lives; and

WHEREAS, Plastic Free July seeks to stress the staggering amounts of  
plastic that have been produced globally; studies have found that in the  
first 10 years of this century, more plastic was produced than the

entire last century; across New York State, 9.37 billion single-use plastic bags are disposed of; and in New York City alone, 12.5 million dollars a year is spent on removing plastic waste; and

WHEREAS, Already, the ocean is filled with 165 million tons of plastic, and by 2050, plastic in the oceans will outweigh fish, predicts a report from the Ellen MacArthur Foundation, in partnership with the World Economic Forum; and

WHEREAS, Plastic Free July seeks to take small strides at changing this global issue by starting with the people, challenging them to refuse to use single-use plastic; single-use plastic is defined as plastic shopping bags, plastic cups, straws, plastic packaging and anything that is expected only to be used once and then discarded; and

WHEREAS, New Yorkers can commemorate this initiative by participating in this challenge by giving up single-use plastic items for a day, a week, or the whole month; and

WHEREAS, In recognition of the great accomplishments of the Plastic Free July initiative, an educational and reaffirming month-long challenge is held across New York State; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body commends the Plastic Free July initiative for enlightening New Yorkers of the importance of reusing and eliminating the usage of plastic items; and

WHEREAS, It is imperative that there be greater awareness of this serious environmental issue, and more must be done to increase activity at the local, State and national levels; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to

memorialize Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim July 2022, as Plastic Free Month in the State of New York; and be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to The Honorable Kathy Hochul, Governor of the State of New York; and to the events commemorating Plastic Free July throughout New York State.