

Landmark Calif. plastic bag ban on hold

By Lydia O'Connor, Huffington Post

The nation's first statewide ban on single-use plastic bags will not go into effect this summer after all. The California secretary of state's office announced Tuesday that a referendum to overturn the measure has qualified for the November 2016 ballot.

The state confirmed that the trade group American Progressive Bag Alliance submitted at least 110 percent of the 504,760 verified signatures it needed to qualify its measure to overturn the plastic bag ban, the Los Angeles Times reported. As such, the landmark law is now on hold until California voters weigh in next year.

Approved by California Governor Jerry Brown last September and originally slated to go into effect this July, the ban would require grocers to charge at least 10 cents for each recycled paper bag or reusable bag given to consumers. The law also provides \$2 million in competitive loans to help plastic bag manufacturers convert their businesses to manufacture reusable bags.

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