



PRESS RELEASE

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CGA Calls on Exempted Jurisdictions to Adopt Executive Order To Temporarily Suspend Carryout Bag Ordinances

SACRAMENTO, CA (April 24, 2020) – The California Grocers Association is calling on more than 150 California cities and counties to follow Governor Gavin Newsom’s Executive Order to temporarily suspend the state’s carryout bag law, and suspend similar ordinances in their jurisdiction.

On April 23, Gov. Newsom released Executive Order N-54-20 that includes a temporary suspension of the state’s carryout bag law. The order, though, does not apply to jurisdictions with local carryout ordinances grandfathered by the state law. Those jurisdictions remain unaffected.

“For the safety of our valued grocery employees and consumers, and to provide consistency throughout the state, our industry is asking all local governments with carryout bag bans to similarly suspend their ordinance for at least 60-days,” said Ron Fong, CGA President & CEO.

The Governor’s Executive Order was an attempt to bring uniformity statewide after several California county health officials issued orders preventing customers from bringing any reusable items into grocery stores in an effort to limit the potential for further COVID-19 contamination.

“Unfortunately, a simple ban on the use of reusable bags leaves grocers under mandates to continue to charge for bags and eliminates no-cost options for consumers,” Fong said. “This is why the Governor temporarily suspended the entirety of the state law. Suspension of full local ordinances is necessary to prevent consumers from being forced to pay for a bag with no option to avoid the charge.”

CGA does encourage a return to full implementation of existing state and local carryout bag laws as soon as it’s determined to be appropriate by public health officials and the state.

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The California Grocers Association is a non-profit, statewide trade association representing the food industry since 1898. CGA membership includes approximately 300 retail companies operating more than 6,000 stores in California and Nevada, and approximately 200 grocery supplier companies.