

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 79

Senator Shink offered the following resolution:

1 A resolution to recognize October 19-26, 2025, as
2 Microplastics Awareness Week.

3 Whereas, Michigan is home to more than 11,000 inland lakes,
4 tens of thousands of miles of rivers and streams, 6.5 million acres
5 of wetlands, 3,200 miles of Great Lakes shoreline, 230,000 acres of
6 coastal dunes, and vast groundwater resources; and

7 Whereas, Michigan's lakes and ecosystems provide a multitude
8 of ecological, social, and economic benefits for millions of
9 residents, as well as support to diverse and abundant wildlife; and

10 Whereas, Environmental impacts to the waters of Michigan
11 represent a risk to drinking water resources for 10 million
12 residents; and

13 Whereas, Plastics are widespread throughout the Great Lakes
14 region and have been detected in water, air, soil, and living

organisms such as mussels, birds, fish, and algae, all of which can enter the environment through a variety of sources; and

Whereas, Microplastics come from a variety of sources including the breakdown of larger plastics (e.g., plastic bottles/bags, rope, nets, or other debris), release during plastic manufacturing (e.g., nurdles, microbeads, or plastic containing wastewater), and also release during the use of plastic products (such as synthetic clothing and vehicle tires); and

Whereas, Emerging scientific evidence suggests that impacts from plastic pollution, including microplastics, chemical additives, and contaminants absorbed by plastic particles, may affect human health and organisms; and

Whereas, More research is needed to investigate plastic pollution throughout the environment and potential links to understand human and environmental health effects; and

Whereas, Successfully combatting plastic pollution requires a comprehensive approach to addressing the full life cycle of plastics; and

Whereas, The November 2024 final report of the International Joint Commission Great Lakes Science Advisory Board work group on microplastics recommends better understanding of microplastic pollution, creating a consistent way to track and report it across the region, and supporting efforts to protect the Great Lakes from its harmful effects; and

Whereas, Michigan can work to prevent plastics from entering the state and Great Lakes waters through research, monitoring, long-term planning, adaptive management, policy, innovation, education, and outreach; and

Whereas, We encourage industries, businesses, and the public

1 to explore and use alternatives to plastics in their product
2 choices, manufacturing processes, and waste management practices
3 (e.g., recycling and reuse) to reduce our dependency on plastics
4 and the volume of plastics being released into the environment; and

5 Whereas, During this week, we encourage Michiganders to learn
6 about microplastics and prevent plastic pollution by exploring ways
7 to take action, such as beach or community cleanups, reducing
8 single-use plastics, and supporting local efforts to keep our
9 waterways clean; now, therefore, be it

10 Resolved by the Senate, That the members of this legislative
11 body recognize October 19-26, 2025, as Microplastics Awareness
12 Week.