

## Plastic Bags Banned

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### PRACTICE AREAS

- Retail

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*Retail Consumer Laws*

On October 30, 2015, Governor Alejandro García Padilla signed an Executive Order banning the use of plastic bags as part of his commitment to the conservation of natural resources. The effective date of the prohibition is July 1, 2016.

The Executive Order directs the Solid Waste Management Authority (“SWMA”) to adopt regulations to prohibit the use and dispensation of plastic bags by retailers through a program of solid waste reduction based on its authority pursuant to Act 70-1992. Under the Executive Order, SWMA is authorized to design and implement an orientation, education and awareness campaign for retailers and the general public sector. This campaign will run during the six (6) months before the prohibition takes effect.

The regulation to be promulgated by SWMA will cover the implementation, supervision and compliance with the Executive Order, including the penalties for the violations thereto.

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