

# New York's Packaging Reduction and Recycling Infrastructure Act: Expanded Scope and Ongoing Affordability Risks for Families

## What PRRIA Does

New York's Packaging Reduction and Recycling Infrastructure Act (PRRIA) (Senate Bill [S1464A](#) and Assembly Bill [A1749A](#)) introduces an Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) program that would require private businesses to pay for the costs of collecting, sorting, recycling and disposing of their products.

**DIVE DEEPER:** In late April 2026, the sponsors released the first set of amendments to the bill in a few years—S1464A and A1749A.

**WHAT'S NEXT:** The bill was heard by the Senate Finance Committee on May 19 and passed on party lines, moving it a step closer to floor consideration. Once budget negotiations wrap up, lawmakers will race to finish priority bills before early June adjournment.

## Why It Matters



### If passed, PRRIA would:

- Set a recycling rate of 75% for all materials.
- Require product producers and manufacturers with annual net revenues over \$5 million and that are responsible for more than 2 tons of annual packaging waste to reduce the amount of packaging in their products by 10% within 3 years and 30% within 12 years.
- Set post-consumer recycled content (PCRC) standards for packaging within 2 years, including 40% recycled material for paper bags.

**AF&PA Position: Oppose**

## *Commercial Recycling Now Included Because of PRRIA Amendments*

**Quick Take:** PRRIA was amended to expand the EPR program to include commercial packaging, making paper-based packaging—despite its already high recycling rates—more expensive to recycle.

**Dive Deeper:** Commercial recycling operates outside of residential recycling and is already paid for directly by businesses through private pickup. Most paper-based packaging is already recovered and recycled through commercial systems at very high rates.

In fact, AF&PA estimates that more than **80% of all cardboard collected for recycling** nationwide already comes from industrial, commercial and institutional (ICI) collection streams. **More than 90% of the materials collected from ICI streams are recycled.**

**Why it Matters:** Applying EPR fees to these materials means charging companies for a system they don't use and will not benefit from. This is not reform, it is duplication. When commercial businesses like grocery stores and retailers are required to pay twice for recycling, those costs don't disappear—**they show up for Americans at the checkout line.**

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## *The Issue: PRRIA Poses Affordability Risks for New York Families Without Paper Recycling Benefits*



### **Significant affordability concerns:**

The bill poses significant [affordability](#) concerns for New Yorkers without delivering meaningful recycling benefits for paper. In [New York](#), EPR could increase the cost of everyday essentials like cereal and pasta **up to \$732 a year for a family of four.**



### **Raises costs without improving outcomes:**

EPR programs, such as PRRIA, treat paper the same as hard-to-recycle materials like plastics. This approach penalizes the paper industry by forcing paper producers to subsidize the collection and recycling of materials with low recycling rates, raising costs without improving paper recycling outcomes.

**Paper recycling already works and EPR won't improve it.**

## OUR ASK: New York Policymakers Must Focus on Solutions that Target Hard-to-Recycle Materials and Don't Raise Costs for Hard-working New Yorkers

- Avoid enacting an EPR program that includes paper and paper-based packaging
- Focus EPR only on materials with low recycling rates
- Exclude printing and writing paper and commercial paper-based packaging from the scope of EPR
- [Examine](#) the early outcomes in states already implementing EPR

**Paper and paper-based packaging do not belong in EPR programs.** Including paper in EPR would not improve paper recycling outcomes, but it would add unnecessary costs to a system that already works.

New York lawmakers must focus on materials with low recycling rates like plastics and other packaging materials.

A focused approach ensures resources are used effectively, avoids penalizing industries that have already invested heavily in recycling infrastructure, and prevents a program that will add fees and layers of bureaucracy—ultimately raising the cost of groceries and other essentials for New York families.