

# California to be first US state to ban plastic bags

September 5 2014

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Customers of Ralphs supermarket use plastic bags to carry their groceries back home, in Glendale, California, on October 25, 2011

California governor Jerry Brown said he will approve a ban on single-use plastic bags, in what would make the western US state the first to outlaw them.

Lawmakers passed the bill late last Friday, and it now only requires Brown's signature to pass into law. The governor must do so before the end of September.

"I probably will sign it, yes," Democratic veteran Brown said late Thursday during a televised debate with his Republican election rival Neel Kashkari, who is trailing badly in opinion polls.

"In fact, I'll tell you why I'm going to sign it: there are about 50 cities with their own [plastic bag](#) ban, and that's causing a lot of confusion," he said, cited by the Los Angeles Times and other media.

He added: "This is a compromise .. It's taking into account the needs of the environment, and the needs of the economy and the needs of the grocers."

Under the Californian legislation, single-use plastic [bags](#) would disappear from [grocery stores](#) and pharmacies from July 1, 2015, and then from convenience and liquor stores from July 1, 2016.

The bill would allow stores to charge 10 cents for paper or reusable bags. Similar bans, backed by environmentalists, are already in place in cities including Los Angeles and San Francisco.

A ban is opposed by Republicans who say it would be too much government meddling for small and medium sized businesses, and by bag manufacturers who fear job losses.



California governor Jerry Brown speaks during a press conference in San Francisco, California, on January 17, 2014

Kashkari—who latest polls indicate trails by 50 percent to 34 percent for the November 4 gubernatorial post—said he opposes the legislation.

"No chance would I sign that bill," he said in Thursday's debate.

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