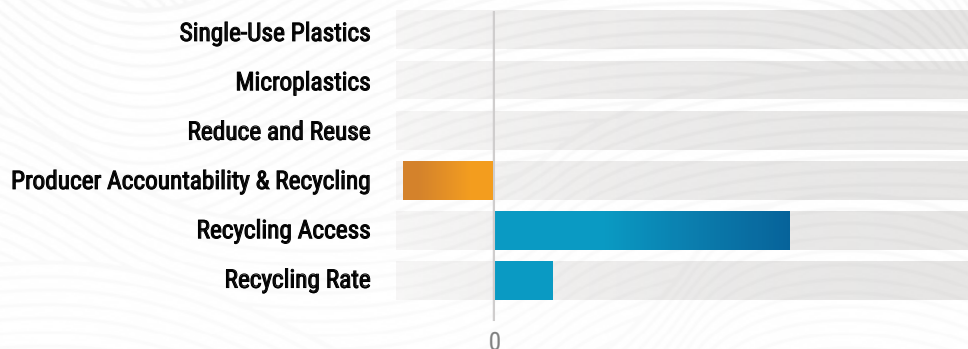


# United States OF PLASTICS

## Georgia

SOUTH ATLANTIC-GULF

Georgia's Atlantic shoreline is crucial to the state's economy, communities and wildlife. Coastal towns rely on the ocean for fishing, shipping and tourism, while salt marshes, estuaries and barrier islands provide essential habitats for birds, sea turtles and marine life, including Georgia's state marine mammal, the critically endangered North Atlantic right whale. The Port of Savannah, one of the busiest in the U.S., is a key driver of the state's economy, directly connecting ocean access to global trade and job creation. While in recent years some Georgia communities have taken steps toward addressing plastic pollution at the local level, the state has yet to pass legislation that would address plastic pollution and has enacted a law that could hinder further progress.



### FINAL SCORE



*Needs Improvement*





### Single-Use Plastics

The state has not passed any laws restricting the single-use plastics reviewed in our study.



### Reduce and Reuse

The state has not enacted any laws relating to plastic reduction or reuse.



### Microplastics

The state has not passed any laws to address microplastic pollution.



### Producer Accountability and Recycling

The state does not have extended producer responsibility (EPR) or deposit return programs for packaging or beverage containers. The state has also adopted policies that support harmful chemical recycling.<sup>1</sup>

## RECOMMENDATIONS

- Georgia has policies in place that are impeding progress towards addressing plastic pollution. The state should reverse policies that enable harmful chemical recycling technologies and undermine reduction and effective recycling practices.
- Given the amount of beverage container-related pollution in the top ten most commonly collected items in the state, Georgia could consider policies like comprehensive EPR combined with a deposit return system, which could increase the amount of material that is recycled and immediately and significantly decrease beverage container pollution as well as overall litter.

## Top 10 Items Collected by ICC Volunteers

- 1 Cigarette Butts
- 2 Beverage Bottles (Plastic)
- 3 Beverage Cans
- 4 Beverage Bottles (Glass)
- 5 Food Wrappers (Candy, chips, etc.)
- 6 Bottle Caps (Plastic)
- 7 Grocery Bags (Plastic)
- 8 Straws, Stirrers
- 9 Other Plastic/Foam Packaging
- 10 Other Plastic Bags

<sup>1</sup> HB 785, 2017–2018 Gen. Sess. (Ga. 2018). Ocean Conservancy considers chemical recycling technologies harmful if they do not recover plastic and create environmental and societal harm. Learn more about our [position on chemical recycling](#).