

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **CONTACT:**

Josie Hankey  
Communications Strategist  
Fallston Group, LLC  
410-420-2001  
[josie.hankey@fallstongroup.com](mailto:josie.hankey@fallstongroup.com)

### **New York Governor Signs Clothing Collection Bin Legislation into Law**

*Bill A.5317 proposed by Assemblyman Braunstein and supported by SMART imposes stricter regulations on the placement, maintenance and transparency of clothing collection bins in New York State*

ABINGDON, Md. (Dec. 16, 2015)—New York State Bill A.5317 sponsored by Assemblyman Edward C. Braunstein (D-Bayside) and supported by the Secondary Materials and Recycled Textiles Association (SMART) was signed into law by Governor Cuomo on Dec. 14, 2015. The legislation combats the proliferation of clothing collection bins provided by fake charities in New York by imposing stricter regulations on the placement, maintenance and transparency of collection bins across the state.

“On behalf of our membership, SMART continues to advocate for legislation like Bill A.5317 across the country that requires stricter regulations of transparency, placement and maintenance for clothing collection bin operators,” said SMART Executive Director Jackie King. “Our members abide by a rigorous Code of Conduct and support any measures that address potential ‘bad actors’ within the recycling/reuse community.”

The legislation prohibits placement of collection bins on public property and imposes maintenance requirements of such bins. The law also strengthens operator transparency by imposing disclosure requirements, including indication as a for-profit business or nonprofit organization. Additionally, disclosure is required if the bin is operated by a for-profit business in conjunction with a nonprofit organization. Bin owners are subject to fines for violations of the bill’s disclosure and maintenance requirements.

SMART worked closely with New York legislators to draft Bill A.5317. SMART’s Draft Bin Legislation and Guidance Document, along with the association’s [Bin Operator Code of Conduct](#) served as guiding documents for Bill A.5317 and similar measures, as the association has worked with legislators nationwide on the state and municipality levels to develop and enact bin legislation, including Kentucky, Illinois, California, Virginia and Maryland.

“Fake charities are benefiting from the generous nature of our community by misleading people into believing their donations are going to help those in need of assistance,” said Assemblyman Braunstein. “These bins are frequently placed on sidewalks and other public places, damaging the quality of life of our neighborhoods. This law will ensure that fake charities no longer benefit from their deceptive actions.”

According to King, SMART's member companies make vital contributions to state and national environmental goals through the reuse and recycling of nearly four billion pounds of used clothing and other textile waste that would have otherwise ended up in a landfill each year. The association's industry members range from wiping rag manufacturers, textile wholesalers, textile graders, fiber conversion companies and collection bin operators.

To learn more about SMART, visit [www.smartasn.org](http://www.smartasn.org) or "like" SMART on [Facebook](#). Please direct all media inquiries to Josie Hankey at 410-420-2001 or by email at [josie.hankey@fallstongroup.com](mailto:josie.hankey@fallstongroup.com).

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### **About SMART**

Secondary Materials and Recycled Textiles (SMART) is an international nonprofit trade association that strengthens the economic opportunities of its diverse membership by promoting the interdependence of our industry segments and providing a common forum for networking, education and trade. Since 1932, SMART has been at the forefront of recycling. SMART members used and convert recycled and secondary materials from used clothing, commercial laundries and non-woven, off spec material, new mill ends and paper from around the world. SMART member companies create thousands of jobs worldwide. SMART members prove each day that you can make money by being socially responsible.

For additional information on SMART, visit the association's website at [www.smartasn.org](http://www.smartasn.org) or view the SMART Media Kit at [www.smartasn.org/about/SMART\\_PressKitOnline.pdf](http://www.smartasn.org/about/SMART_PressKitOnline.pdf). For informational videos on textile recycling, visit [www.smartasn.org/about/videos.cfm](http://www.smartasn.org/about/videos.cfm).