



**FOR INTERNAL USE ONLY**

**INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS DIVISION**

**COUNTY AGENCY LEGISLATIVE COMMENT REQUEST FORM**

**Reviewing Agency:** Prince George's County Health Department

**Bill/Resolution Number:** CB-079-2023

**Brief Summary of the Bill/Resolution:**

*Please provide a brief description of the bill in your own words and do not cut and paste the bill's purpose section.*

The proposed legislation, Bill No. CB-079-2023, titled "Better Bag Bill – Revisions," aims to establish regulations regarding the provision and charges associated with certain paper and reusable carryout bags provided by retail establishments in Prince George's County, Maryland. If passed, the bill would prohibit retail establishments from providing plastic carryout bags to customers after December 31, 2023. After that date, retail establishments would be required to charge customers up to 10 cents for each paper carryout bag and reusable carryout bag, with certain exceptions. The charge would not apply to bags containing prescription medication from a pharmacy, bags with prepared food from drive-through restaurants, or bags provided by full-service restaurants for leftover food. Additionally, customers using supplemental nutrition assistance programs, such as SNAP, would be exempt from these charges.

The bill prohibits retail establishments from falsely claiming that they will absorb or refund any part of the collected charges. It allows for one week per year when retail establishments can provide reusable bags free of charge as a promotional event. Retail establishments would also need to provide information on the number of bags provided and the associated charges on customer receipts and post notices in English and Spanish at the entrances and point of sale, informing customers about the charges.

**Agency Impact:**

*Will this bill impact your Agency financially or operationally, or your Agency's mission?*

Yes     No     Undeterminable at this time

*If yes, please select the appropriate impact:*     Positive Impact     Negative Impact     No Impact

**Discussion of Impact:**

*How does this bill affect the ability of your agency to complete its mission? If there is a negative impact, are there suggested amendments to eliminate the negative impact? Please include facts, figures, and references to supporting material to support your recommendation.*

As written, CB-079-2023 will not impact Health Department operations. However, there is no mention of how enforcement will be handled. If the Health Department is expected to enforce CB-079-2023, this will have a significant fiscal impact and will require additional staffing to implement.

**Fiscal Impact:**

*Please provide an estimate of the financial impact. For example, will this bill require you to hire more staff, create a computer system, etc?*

None as written

**Agency Position Recommendation:**

Support     Oppose     Support with Amendments     No position

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*Please specify any suggested amendments in the space below?*

To fully consider the impact of this bill, it would be helpful for revisions to answer:

- Will this be enforced?
- Who will enforce this?
- How will money be used that is collected by facilities? Will it be used to pay for inspections and verification by county agencies?

**Additional Information:**

*Has your agency been contacted by the State Department of Legislative Services staff regarding this proposal?*

Yes     No

*If yes, please provide comments about the discussion.*

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