

COUNTY COUNCIL OF PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND
2010 Legislative Session

Bill No. CB-38-2010

Chapter No. _____

Proposed and Presented by Council Member Harrison

Introduced by _____

Co-Sponsors _____

Date of Introduction _____

BILL

1 AN ACT concerning

2 Prince George's County Plastic Bag Reduction Program

3 For the purpose of establishing a voluntary plastic bag reduction program for disposable bags in
4 Prince George's County.

5 BY adding:

6 SUBTITLE 21. REFUSE.

7 Sections 21-156, 21-157, 21-158, 21-159 and 21-160

8 The Prince George's County Code

9 (2007 Edition, 2009 Supplement).

10 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED by the County Council of Prince George's County,
11 Maryland, that Sections 21-156, 21-157, 21-158, 21-159 and 21-160 of the Prince George's
12 County Code be and the same are hereby added:

13 **SUBTITLE 21. REFUSE.**

14 **DIVISION 5. PLASTIC BAG REDUCTION.**

15 **Subdivision 1. Plastic Bag Reduction Program.**

16 **Sec. 21-156. Definitions.**

17 (a) For the purposes of this Division, these terms shall have the following meaning:

18 (1) **Department** shall mean the Department of Environmental Resources.

19 (2) **Director** shall mean the Director of the Department of Environmental Resources
20 or his/her designee.

21 (3) **Disposable bag** shall mean a bag of any material, commonly plastic or paper,

1 which is provided to a customer at the point of sale to carry purchases.

2 (4) **Reusable bag** shall mean a bag with handles that is specifically designed and
3 manufactured, and sold for multiple reuses and is made of cloth, fiber or other machine washable
4 fabric, or durable plastic.

5 (5) **Retail establishment** shall mean a commercial location where the sale of
6 commodities, goods or food is made directly to customers, including but not limited to
7 supermarkets, restaurants, convenience stores, shops, pharmacies, service stations, and other
8 retail sales outlets.

9 **Sec. 21-157. Purpose.**

10 It is the intent and purpose of this Division is to eliminate and/or reduce the use of non-
11 biodegradable plastic and paper bags and to encourage the use and availability of reusable bags
12 by the County's businesses and citizens to assist the County with meetings its obligations to
13 preserve and protect the County's environment.

14 **Sec. 21-158. Program Established, Education and Outreach.**

15 (a) There is a Plastic Bag Reduction Program established in Prince George's County to
16 reduce the use of disposable bags and to encourage the use and availability of reusable bags by
17 the County's businesses and citizens.

18 (b) The Department shall develop public information and outreach campaign to educate the
19 public and retail establishments on the importance of reducing the number on disposable bags
20 entering the waste stream and the impact on the rivers, streams and environmental health of
21 Prince George's County.

22 (c) The Department may develop public-private partnerships to support reduction of
23 disposable bags in the County's waste stream, including encouraging voluntary programs with
24 retail establishments for the recycling of disposable bags and to strongly encourage retail
25 establishments and the public to utilize reusable bags.

26 **Sec. 21-159. Study**

27 The Department shall undertake a predicate study of the environmental impact of
28 disposable bags use in the County, including the number of disposable bags used annually by
29 retail establishments, the amount of bags collected as waste product, the percentage of disposable
30 bags recycled by the County and retail establishments, the amount and impact of litter resulting
31 from disposable bags and goals to reduce the use, recycle and the use reusable bags. The

1 Director shall provide a copy of the study to the County Executive and the County Council.

2 **Sec. 21-160. Reporting.**

3 The Director shall report annually to the County Executive and the County Council on the
4 implementation of the Plastic Bag Reduction Program, including all outreach and educational
5 efforts supported.

6 SECTION 2. BE IT FURTHER ENACTED that the provisions of this Act are hereby
7 declared to be severable; and, in the event that any section, subsection, paragraph, subparagraph,
8 sentence, clause, phrase, or word of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional by a court of
9 competent jurisdiction, such invalidity or unconstitutionality shall not affect the remaining
10 words, phrases, clauses, sentences, subparagraphs, paragraphs, subsections, or sections of this
11 Act, since the same would have been enacted without the incorporation in this Act of any such
12 invalid or unconstitutional word, phrase, clause, sentence, subparagraph, subsection, or section.

13 SECTION 3. BE IT FURTHER ENACTED that this Act shall take effect 45 calendar days
14 after it become law.

Adopted this ____ day of _____, 2010.

COUNTY COUNCIL OF PRINCE
GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND

BY: _____
Thomas E. Dernoga
Chair

ATTEST:

Redis C. Floyd
Clerk of the Council

APPROVED:

DATE: _____ BY: _____
Jack B. Johnson
County Executive

KEY:
Underscoring indicates language added to existing law.
[Brackets] indicate language deleted from existing law.
Asterisks *** indicate intervening existing Code provisions that remain unchanged.