



STATE OF MARYLAND  
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

FACSIMILE No.

WRITER'S DIRECT DIAL No.

410-576-6584

February 19, 2020

To: The Honorable Dereck E. Davis  
Chair, Economic Matters Committee

From: The Office of the Attorney General

Re: House Bill 296 – Environment – Single-Use Plastic Straws – Use in a Food Service Business (**Support**)

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House Bill 296 prohibits food service businesses— a business in the State that sells or provides food and beverages or beverages only for consumption on or off the premises—from providing single-use plastic straws to a customer dining in the food service business, unless the customer requests a straw.

House Bill 296 is consistent with Maryland's efforts to increase environmental consciousness and reduce plastic waste. Plastic straws have extremely negative effects on the environment. Plastic is one of the biggest pollutants in the world, and straws make up a large portion of the plastic pollution. According to a study, nearly 9 million tons of plastic end up in the world's oceans and coastlines each year,<sup>1</sup> inevitably affecting the shores and coastlines of Maryland.

Eliminating single-use plastic straws is a step in the right direction for an environmentally conscious Maryland. For these reasons, the Office of the Attorney General urges the favorable report on House Bill 296.

cc: Members of the Economic Matters Committee

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<sup>1</sup> Seth Borenstein, *Science Says: Amount of straws, plastic pollution is huge*, (April 21, 2018), <https://phys.org/news/2018-04-science-amount-straws-plastic-pollution.html>.

