



Mission: To improve public health in Maryland through education and advocacy **Vision:** Healthy Marylanders living in Healthy Communities

HB 135 - Environment - Single-Use Plastics - Restrictions

Hearing Date: 2/2/2022

Committee: Economic Matters

Position: SUPPORT

Chairperson Wilson and members of the Economic Matters Committee: The Maryland Public Health Association would like to express support for HB 135, sponsored by Delegate Love. This bill will prohibit restaurants from automatically providing certain single use plastic items as part of a delivery or takeout order.

In 2019, the Center for International Environmental Law (CIEL) released a report detailing the harms to human health that plastics have throughout their lifecycle. From extraction of fossil fuels for the production of plastics, to consumer use, and through the waste stream, plastic has the potential to harm human health at every stage. Further, the small single-use items like straws and utensils distributed with takeout orders are notoriously difficult to recycle and will most likely end up in a landfill.

More from the National Caucus of State Legislators on this report, and on other states working to limit or prohibit single-use plastics: <https://www.ncelenviro.org/articles/plastic-pollution-and-public-health-a-toxic-relationship/>

Plastic pollution is a global problem with local solutions. Banning the free distribution of single use plastic with takeout orders is an appropriate and practical legislative action that can protect our environment, which in turn has positive impacts on human health, and can raise awareness among consumers.

Thank you for your consideration. We urge a favorable report on HB 135.

The Maryland Public Health Association (MdPHA) is a nonprofit, statewide organization of public health professionals dedicated to improving the lives of all Marylanders through education, advocacy, and collaboration. We support public policies consistent with our vision of healthy Marylanders living in healthy, equitable, communities. MdPHA is the state affiliate of the American Public Health Association, a nearly 145-year-old professional organization dedicated to improving population health and reducing the health disparities that plague our state and our nation.