



House Bill 135

Environment – Single–Use Plastics – Restrictions

February 2, 2022

No Position: Information

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Economic Matters Committee:

The *Restaurant Association of Maryland* has worked with Delegate Love, the sponsor of House Bill 135, to address our concerns with versions of this legislation introduced in previous years.

This year's bill includes our requested language to ensure that the plastic restrictions established by this legislation do not apply to drive-through window transactions, prepackaged beverage products, food or beverage products and condiments that customers serve themselves, and lids. The bill also includes our requested language to allow for customers to accept an offer of the restricted plastic products in addition to making a request for such, and waiver language and a warning for a first violation with 3 months to come into compliance before any civil penalty (up to \$200 per violation but not more than one civil penalty within a 7-day period).

We, therefore, have a neutral position on this legislation but may have to reconsider our position depending on any amendments made to the bill language.

Sincerely,

Melvin R. Thompson
Senior Vice President
Government Affairs and Public Policy