



**BRANDON M. SCOTT**  
MAYOR

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**HB 135**

February 2, 2022

**TO:** Members of the Economic Matters Committee  
**FROM:** Natasha Mehu, Director of Government Relations  
**RE:** HOUSE BILL 135 – Environment – Single Use Plastics - Restrictions

**POSITION: SUPPORT**

Chair Wilson, Vice Chair Crosby and Members of the Committee, please be advised that the Baltimore City Administration (BCA) **supports** House Bill (HB) 135.

House Bill 135 would prohibit food service businesses from providing certain single-use food or beverage products to a customer ordering carryout or delivery from or dining inside the food service business unless the customer requests or accepts an offer for the single-use products. This bill would limit the quantity of single-use products a food service business keeps on site.

The Baltimore City Department of Public Works supports this legislation, as it supports efforts in Baltimore to reduce trash and promote behavioral change around trash and litter. Legislative initiatives in Baltimore have focused on reducing waste generation and banning/restricting the use of low value, hard to recycle materials, such as plastic bags and polystyrene containers. The Less Waste, Better Baltimore Plan provides several recommendations for how legislation can reduce waste and would support the intentions of House Bill 135. The Baltimore City Trash TMDL Implementation Plan contains measures geared reducing litter through outreach and education, and the goals of these programs align with the proposed House Bill 135 legislation.

A reduction in the volume of trash collected and littered in the city will ease the strain on the landfill that accommodates both municipal and commercial refuse, as well as reduce the amount of litter washed into the waterways that feed into the Chesapeake Bay. Baltimore has implemented and is in the process of implementing programs to increase the level of recycling and diversion of organic material from the waste stream.

House Bill 135 will promote reduction in use of single-use products, which haven not been specifically targeted in the existing programming as they are difficult to recycle and/or compost.

We respectfully request a **favorable** report on House Bill 135.

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