



# MEMORANDUM

STEPHANIE  
RAWLINGS-BLAKE,  
Mayor

PAUL T. GRAZIANO,  
Executive Director, HABC  
Commissioner, HCD

To: The Honorable President and Members of the Baltimore City Council  
c/o Karen Randle, *Executive Secretary*

From: Paul T. Graziano, *Commissioner*

Date: June 27, 2013

Re: **City Council Bill 13-0241 – Plastic- and Paper-Bag Surcharge**

The Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) has reviewed City Council Bill 13-0241, which was introduced for the purpose of imposing a surcharge on certain bags provided by dealers to customers; defining certain terms; providing for the collection and remittance of the surcharge; requiring certain reports; prohibiting certain conduct; imposing certain civil and criminal penalties; providing for a special effective date; and generally relating to a surcharge on plastic and paper bags.

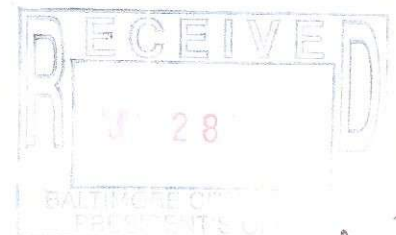
This bill, if enacted, would impose a \$0.25 surcharge on every plastic or paper bag supplied by any: (i) supermarket; (ii) convenience store; (iii) shop; (iv) service station; (v) or other sales outlet to one of its customers, at the point of sale, for the use of the customer to carry goods they have purchased. Exceptions are written into the bill for bags used solely to contain: (i) fresh fish and fresh fish products; (ii) fresh meat and fresh meat products; (iii) fresh poultry and fresh poultry products; (iv) fruits, nuts or vegetables; (v) confectionery; (vi) dairy products; (vii) cooked food, whether hot or cold; or (viii) ice. Additionally, this surcharge would not apply to customers purchasing good under: (i) the Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Program; the Food Supplement Program (FSP); or the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). The Director of the Department of Finance or his/her designee would be empowered to receive remittances from dealers under this bill, as well as to establish the information to be required of the dealer in the reporting form established under this bill.

HCD notes that there appears to be a technical typographical error at Page 4, Line 1 and Page 5, Line 13, where each respective section sub-heading is a second consecutive subsection (B). Presumably each should be amended to strike the “(B)” and replace each with a “(C)”.

The Department of Housing and Community Development respectfully defers its position on City Council Bill 13-0241 to the Department of Finance.

PTG:nb

cc: Ms. Angela Gibson, *City Council Liaison, Mayor’s Office of Government Relations*  
Ms. Kaliope Parthemos, *Deputy Chief, Economic Development*



*Defers to  
Finance/  
A.*