


F R O M	Name & Title	Dr. Leana Wen, M.D., M.Sc. <i>Leana Wen</i>	Health Department MEMO	
	Agency Name & Address	Health Department 1001 E. Fayette Street Baltimore, Maryland 21201		
	Subject	Council Bill 15-0469 – Plastic Bag Reduction		

To: President and Members
of the City Council
c/o 409 City Hall

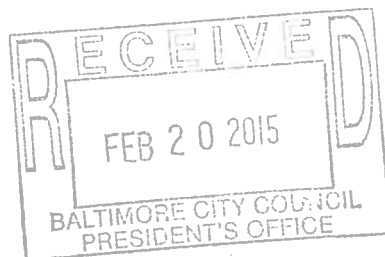
February 13, 2015

The Baltimore City Health Department (BCHD) is pleased to have the opportunity to review Council Bill 15-0469 – Plastic Bag Reduction. The purpose of this bill is to prohibit certain dealers from supplying customers with plastic bags for use as carryout or checkout bags.

Plastic bags are primarily made from polyethylene, a non-sustainable and heavily polluting resource. They constitute a great source of litter for the City and contribute to the total amount of waste entering the Harbor. Plastic bags in waterways travel far from their point of origin and pose choking, strangling and ingestion risks to marine animals and other wildlife.

Baltimore City Health Department supports the measure. However, BCHD would like guidance on the regarding enforcement responsibilities under the bill. If requested, BCHD only has the capacity for compliance monitoring during regularly scheduled inspections (with the understanding that additional visits to ensure program compliance would not be possible).

cc: Angela Gibson, Office of the Mayor
Rianna Matthews-Brown, Chief of Staff, Department of Health
Andrew Nicklas, Director of Legislative Affairs, Department of Health



F w/ Comm