


FROM	NAME & TITLE	David E. Scott, Acting Director	CITY of BALTIMORE MEMO	
	AGENCY NAME & ADDRESS	Department of Public Works 600 Abel Wolman Municipal Building		
	SUBJECT	CITY COUNCIL BILL 08-0059		

DATE: April 23, 2008

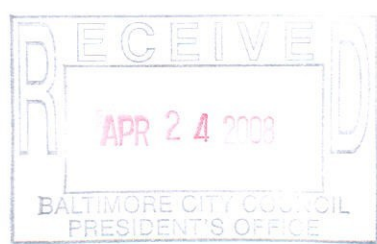
TO The Honorable President and Members
of the Baltimore City Council
c/o Karen Randle
Room 400 - City Hall

I am herein reporting on City Council Bill 08-0059 introduced by Council Members Kraft, Henry, D'Adamo and Conaway.

The purpose of the Bill is to impose a refund value on certain nonreusable beverage containers; require dealers and distributors to accept these containers for refund under certain circumstances; impose penalties; and generally relating to nonreusable beverage containers.

City Council Bill 08-0059, if approved, would impose a minimum cash refund value of 10 cents for every nonreusable beverage container sold or offered for sale in Baltimore City. A distributor or dealer selling or offering to sell a nonreusable beverage container must have securely fixed on the container information stating that the container is to be sold in Baltimore City and the refund value of the container. A nonreusable beverage container is a metal or plastic container of water, iced tea, soft drinks, or beer, ale, or other malt beverages. A nonreusable container would not include a container used for on-premises consumption. Consumers would pay the refund value at time of purchase, but would redeem that value (in cash) when returning the container to a dealer. A dealer may redeem a refund value when returning nonreusable containers to a distributor. Any person violating the provisions of the Bill would be guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction, could be subject to a fine of not more than \$1,000 or imprisonment for one year, or both fine and imprisonment. Each day that a violation occurs would be a separate offense.

The Maryland General Assembly has considered legislation multiple times to require deposits on returnable beverage containers sold in the State of Maryland. Legislation was considered in the 2008 Session that would have established a task force to study the costs, benefits, and feasibility of requiring deposits, including the effect such a requirement would have on littering and recycling. Unfortunately, the legislation received unfavourable committee reports.



Comments

The Honorable President and Members
of the Baltimore City Council
April 23, 2008
Page 2

Imposing a refund value for nonreusable containers only in Baltimore City would be a difficult policy to implement. This Department is only familiar with statewide deposit policies.

Based on these findings, the Department of Public Works recommends that the consideration of imposing a refund value to nonreusable beverage containers in Baltimore City be set aside, and that the Sustainability Commission consider the viability of deposits on returnable beverage containers, its compatibility with current recycling programs, and whether a statewide policy could be supported.



DAVID E. SCOTT
ACTING DIRECTOR

DES/MMC:pat