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**BALTIMORE CITY COUNCIL  
HEALTH, ENVIRONMENT AND TECHNOLOGY  
COMMITTEE**

*Mission Statement*

On behalf of the Citizens of Baltimore City, the mission of the Health, Environment, and Technology (HET) Committee is to study, review, and recommend policies to improve overall public health and welfare, achieve environmental justice and sustainability, and promote the adoption of, and equitable access to, technology to better meet the needs of all City residents.

**The Honorable Danielle McCray  
Chair**

**PUBLIC HEARING**

**WEDNESDAY, JUNE 26, 2024  
10:00 AM**

**COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

*Council Resolution 23-0466*

**Recyclable Materials and Yard Waste - Disposal**

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Danielle McCray

*Staff: Marguerite Currin (443-984-3485)*



## BILL SYNOPSIS

**Committee: Health, Environment, and Technology**

**Council Bill: 23-0466**

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### Recyclable Materials and Yard Waste – Disposal

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**Sponsor:** Councilmember Dorsey

**Introduced:** December 4, 2023

**Purpose:**

For the purpose of prohibiting the disposal of recyclable materials and yard waste in a landfill or an incinerator; and providing for a special effective date.

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### Agency Reports

Commission on Sustainability	None as of writing
City Solicitor	None as of writing
Department of Public Works	None as of writing
Department of General Services	None as of writing
Department of Finance	None as of writing

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### Analysis

#### Background & Current Law

This bill aims to significantly enhance Baltimore City's waste management practices by prohibiting the disposal of recyclable materials and yard waste in landfills or incinerators. This

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bill amends Article 23, Section 16-1 of the Baltimore City Code to extend existing restrictions, which previously applied only to the Quarantine Landfill, to all landfills and incinerators within the city. By mandating that recyclable materials and yard waste must be diverted from these disposal methods, the ordinance seeks to promote recycling and composting practices, thereby reducing the environmental impact of waste management.

This bill is crucial for Baltimore City as it addresses several environmental and public health concerns. Reducing the volume of waste sent to landfills and incinerators can decrease greenhouse gas emissions, air and water pollution, and the consumption of finite landfill space. Enhanced recycling and composting efforts can conserve natural resources, save energy, and support the city's sustainability goals. Moreover, this legislation aligns with broader state and national efforts to create more sustainable waste management systems, ultimately contributing to improved quality of life for Baltimore residents and fostering a healthier urban environment.

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### Additional Information

**Fiscal Note: None.**

**Information Source(s):** Reporting Agencies, Bill 23-0466.

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*Deontre Hayes*

Analysis by: Deontre Hayes  
Analysis Date: June 20, 2024

Direct Inquiries to: (410) 396-1260

**HEALTH, ENVIRONMENT, AND  
TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE**

**AGENCY REPORTS**

**SEE ATTACHED**

**HEALTH, ENVIRONMENT, AND  
TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE**

**PUBLIC TESTIMONY**

**SEE ATTACHED**

**CITY OF BALTIMORE**  
**COUNCIL BILL 23-0466**  
**(First Reader)**

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Introduced by: Councilmember Dorsey, Bullock, Conway, Burnett, Glover, Middleton, Ramos,  
Porter, Cohen

Introduced and read first time: December 4, 2023

Assigned to: Health, Environment, and Technology Committee

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REFERRED TO THE FOLLOWING AGENCIES: City Solicitor, Department of Finance, Department of  
General Services, Department of Public Works, Commission on Sustainability

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A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ORDINANCE concerning

2 **Recyclable Materials and Yard Waste – Disposal**

3 FOR the purpose of prohibiting the disposal of recyclable materials and yard waste in a landfill or  
4 an incinerator; and providing for a special effective date.

5 BY repealing and re-ordaining, with amendments

6 Article 23 - Sanitation

7 Section 16-1

8 Baltimore City Code

9 (Edition 2000)

10 **SECTION 1. BE IT ORDAINED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE**, That the  
11 Laws of Baltimore City read as follows:

12 **Baltimore City Code**

13 **Article 23. Sanitation**

14 **Subtitle 16. Recyclable Materials and Compostable Yard Waste**

15 **§ 16-1. [No disposal at Quarantine Landfill] DISPOSAL OF RECYCLABLE MATERIALS AND**  
16 **YARD WASTE.**

17 [Recyclable materials, as defined in § 11-1 of this article, and compostable yard waste may  
18 not be disposed of at the Quarantine Landfill.]

19 THE FOLLOWING MATERIALS MAY NOT BE DISPOSED OF AT A LANDFILL OR AN INCINERATOR:

20 (1) RECYCLABLE MATERIALS, AS DEFINED IN § 1-1(D) {“DEFINITIONS — RECYCLABLE  
21 MATERIALS”} OF THIS ARTICLE; OR

22 (2) YARD WASTE, AS DEFINED IN § 1-1(E) {“DEFINITIONS — YARD WASTE”} OF THIS  
23 ARTICLE.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS indicate matter added to existing law.  
[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

**Council Bill 23-0466**

1       **SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED,** That this Ordinance takes effect on  
2       October 1, 2025.