


FROM	NAME & TITLE	Sandra E. Baker, Esq., Executive Director	CITY OF BALTIMORE MEMO	
	AGENCY NAME & ADDRESS	Environmental Control Board 200 E. Lexington Street, Suite 100		
	SUBJECT	CITY COUNCIL BILL NO. 13-0241		

TO The Honorable Bernard C. Young
President
City Council of Baltimore
400 City Hall

DATE: June 24, 2013

The Environmental Control Board (ECB) does not object to, the bill 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.

While this amendment represents an important change in a growing awareness of the environmental dangers presented by plastic bags, it does not have an impact on the Environmental Control Board (ECB) as the enforcement mechanism provided in the current form is only of a criminal nature punishable by up to 6 months in jail and a \$1000 fine. ECB does not address criminal citations, only civil ones.

ECB does recognize that many cities in the United States and internationally have passed laws to reduce the reliance on the use of plastic bags. In 2007 San Francisco was the first city in the country to ban plastic bags. Other cities such as Seattle followed suit in 2012. However Ireland added a \$.33 charge for each plastic bag. This reduced the amount of plastic bags used in Ireland by 94%. ECB views this surcharge as a positive step forward for a cleaner city.

No obj.

