



Bill 24-24, Taxation - Paper Carryout Bags and Prohibition on Plastic Carryout Bags (“Bring Your Own Bag”)
Montgomery County Council
January 14, 2025
Support with Amendments

The Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce (MCCC), the voice of business in Montgomery County, supports with amendments Bill 24-24, *Taxation - Paper Carryout Bags and Prohibition on Plastic Carryout Bags (“Bring Your Own Bag”)*. MCCC applauds the sponsor and co-sponsors for proposing this commonsense policy change.

Bill 24-24 prohibits plastic carryout bags provided by retail establishments, requires a 10-cent tax on paper carryout bags at the point of sale, and splits the proceeds of the tax evenly between retailers and the County’s Water Quality Protection Charge fund.

MCCC supports the bill and its goal, which is to incent consumers to bring their own reusable bags when shopping at retail establishments. Plastic bags, while inexpensive compared to paper bags, pose a threat to the environment and public health. Furthermore, a plastic bag ban and 10-cent tax bring Montgomery County in line with many other local jurisdictions, so there are fewer economic or competitive concerns.

While in support of the bill, MCCC requests three amendments that would ease some of the challenges businesses will face during the transition away from plastic bags.

- *Remove the exemption for a paper carryout bag provided to a customer who uses SNAP or WIC benefits. This provision has not been widely adopted by other local jurisdictions and would create confusion and an administrative burden for multi-county businesses in Maryland.*
- *Increase from five to six cents the amount of the tax that goes to retailers. Plastic bag unit costs are significantly cheaper than paper bags and retailers will see their costs increase.*
- *Reduce the penalties on businesses for violations.*

In summary, the Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce supports Bill 24-24 with amendments and respectfully requests favorable consideration of the bill with the Chamber’s suggested changes.

The Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce (MCCC), established in 1959, is an independent non-profit membership organization. MCCC advocates on behalf of our members for growth in business opportunities, strategic investment in infrastructure, and balanced tax reform to advance Metro Maryland as a regional, national, and global location for business success.

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