

HOUSE BILL 908

M3

8lr0819

By: **Delegates Hecht, Barkley, Beidle, Bobo, Cardin, G. Clagett, V. Clagett, Frick, Frush, Howard, Jameson, Lee, Manno, McComas, McIntosh, Mizeur, Morhaim, Niemann, Olszewski, Schuler, Stein, Stull, F. Turner, Waldstreicher, and Weldon**

Introduced and read first time: February 6, 2008

Assigned to: Environmental Matters

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Environment - Plastic Bags - Report**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring the Department of the Environment to report to the
4 General Assembly on or before a certain date on the feasibility of establishing a
5 pilot program relating to the use and disposal of plastic bags; requiring the
6 report to contain certain information; and generally relating to plastic bags and
7 the environment.

8 Preamble

9 WHEREAS, The production of plastic bags has significant environmental
10 impacts each year, including the use of over 12 million barrels of oil, and the deaths of
11 thousands of marine animals through ingestion and entanglement; and

12 WHEREAS, Each year, an estimated 500 billion to 1 trillion plastic bags are
13 used worldwide, which is over 1 million bags per minute, and of which billions of bags
14 end up as litter each year, damaging agricultural interests and the environment; and

15 WHEREAS, Most plastic bags are not biodegradable and break down into
16 smaller and smaller toxic bits that contaminate soil and waterways, including the
17 Chesapeake Bay, and enter into the food web when animals accidentally ingest those
18 materials; now, therefore,

19 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
20 MARYLAND, That, on or before October 1, 2009, the Department of the Environment
21 shall study and report to the General Assembly, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the
22 State Government Article, on the feasibility of establishing a pilot program to mitigate

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 the negative effects of the use and disposal of plastic bags in Maryland. The report
2 shall include recommendations to:

3 (1) Educate the public about the negative environmental impacts of
4 plastic bags;

5 (2) Reduce the use and availability of plastic bags in the State; and

6 (3) Encourage and implement increased recycling of plastic bags in the
7 State.

8 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
9 October 1, 2008.