



March 5, 2025

Legislative Position: Unfavorable

House Bill 1056

Local Government - Excise Tax on Plastic and Paper Carryout Bags

House Environment and Transportation Committee

Dear Chairman Korman and members of the committee:

Founded in 1969, the Howard Chamber of Commerce is dedicated to helping businesses—from sole proprietors to large international firms—grow and succeed. With the power of 700 members that encompass more than 170,000 employees, the Howard County Chamber is an effective partner with elected officials and advocates for the interests of the county's business community.

The members of the Howard County Chamber of Commerce are concerned about the fiscal impact of this bill on our local retailers. The proposed excise tax would not only increase the administrative burden on retailers but also lead to increased costs for consumers. The bill's requirement that retailers retain only one-third of each cent charged in excess of the minimum amount required by local law to cover administrative costs is woefully inadequate. In reality, the costs associated with collecting and remitting the tax would far exceed the amount retailers are allowed to retain, this would likely be the same case for the local jurisdiction collecting the excise tax.

We urge the Committee to consider the potential consequences of this bill on the local economy and its potential role in perpetuating inflation. For these reasons, the Howard County Chamber of Commerce respectfully requests an **unfavorable report** on **HB 1056**.

Sincerely,

Kristi Simon
President & CEO
Howard County Chamber of Commerce