



Maryland Municipal League  
*The Association of Maryland's Cities and Towns*

## TESTIMONY

March 5, 2025

**Committee:** House Environment and Transportation Committee

**Bill:** HB 1412 - Business Regulation - Retail Stores - Carryout Bags

**Position:** Unfavorable

**Reason for Position:**

The Maryland Municipal League (MML) opposes House Bill 1412, which places a prospective prohibition on municipal governments from establishing a fee for a carryout bag at a retail point of sale. The bill also places certain restrictions on existing fees for the same purpose.

Currently, there are 11 municipal governments that impose either a ban or a fee on certain carryout bags. While those 11 would be permitted to continue their policy under the provisions of the bill, many would need to amend their policies based on the bill's mandatory exemptions for those using funds from a public assistance program and those over 65 years old. This creates an operational burden to properly implement the policy.

In addition, the remaining 150 local governments represented by MML, would be prohibited from instituting a fee policy in the future. Not only does this pre-empt local governments from establishing a policy as a priority of their constituency, but these fees and bans are part of an environmental clean-up effort to reduce the amount of single-use plastic that enters the waste stream. Not every municipality will implement such a policy, but MML opposes the prohibition on them from doing so at a later time.

For these reasons, the Maryland Municipal League respectfully requests an unfavorable report on House Bill 1412. For more information, please contact Bill Jorch, Director, Public Policy and Research at [billj@mdmunicipal.org](mailto:billj@mdmunicipal.org). Thank you in advance for your consideration.