



## House Bill 947

### *Local Government - Charges for Paper Carryout Bags - Limitation*

MACo Position: **OPPOSE**

To: Environment and Transportation and  
Economic Matters Committees

Date: March 5, 2025

From: Karrington Anderson

The Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) **OPPOSES** House Bill 947, which would limit the amount that retail establishments may charge for paper carryout bags under certain local laws to no more than 10 cents per bag.

This bill represents an unnecessary preemption of local government authority, restricting counties and municipalities from determining the best approach to managing carryout bag fees in their communities. While no county currently imposes a fee higher than 10 cents, the ability to set this charge should remain a local decision, ensuring flexibility for jurisdictions that have adopted or may consider adopting such policies in the future.

Several Maryland counties have successfully implemented bag fees to reduce waste and promote sustainability. By capping the fee through a statewide mandate, HB 947 removes a key policy tool that counties have used to balance environmental priorities with local economic considerations. The bill undercuts the ability of local governments to work with retailers in tailoring a fee structure that aligns with community needs and priorities.

MACo urges the Committee to retain local autonomy and allow counties to make informed decisions based on their unique circumstances. For these reasons, MACo urges an **UNFAVORABLE** report on HB 947.