

PLASTIC BAG TAX ORDINANCE

Council Meeting - July 18, 2022

AGENDA

Ordinance

Program

Implementation

STATUTE

Legislation passed by the General Assembly to empower municipalities to levy plastic bag tax

* House Bill 534 (2020 *Acts of Assembly*, Chapter 1022)

* Senate Bill 11 (2020 *Acts of Assembly*, Chapter 1023)

2020

FOUR ELIGIBLE USES OF TAX FUNDS RECEIVED

1. Providing reusable bags to SNAP & WIC recipients
2. Education to reduce environmental waste
3. Mitigation of pollution and litter
4. Environmental cleanup

\$.05 per disposable bag whether provided free or purchased in store

ORDINANCE

Bags Exempted:

- Durable bags w/handles for multiple usage (4 mils thick)
- Plastic bags used to wrap/protect certain things:
 - Meat, fish, poultry
 - Ice cream
 - Produce
 - Unwrapped bulk and perishable items
 - Dry cleaning
 - Container bags (garbage, pet waste, leaf removal)

Retailer Details:

- Collection by individual retailers
 - Can retain \$.01 of each tax collected to offset collection and remittance expenses
 - Process will be similar to current retail sales & use collections
- Remittance to VA Department of Taxation monthly
- State collects, audits, and disburses to municipalities

Grocery Stores - Convenience Stores - Pharmacies

PEER PROGRAMS

City Examples:

- Alexandria
- Falls Church
- Fredericksburg
- Roanoke

County Examples:

- Arlington
- Fairfax
- Loudoun

Albemarle County

- Albemarle County included their program in FY23 Adopted Budget
- **Launch Jan 1, 2023**
- Coordinating with county staff for implementation alignment

All current programs have focused on bag distribution to mitigate impact to lower-income households
Speculation about low receivables as stores are already shifting away from plastic bags ahead of tax ordinances going into effect

IMPLEMENTATION



QUESTIONS

1. What kind of bags are we purchasing?
2. Can we get some with wheels for easier transport?
3. How many can a person/household get?
4. How often can someone receive bags?
5. How will people learn about bag distribution?

