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**Bill number:** 250773

**Introduced by:** Squilla

**Cosponsor(s):** Gauthier, Thomas, Jones, Landau, Lozada, Brooks, Harrity, Bass, Ahmad

**Assigned committee:** Licenses and Inspections

**Date introduced:** 09/18/2025

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## **Fiscal Note**

### **Overview**

This bill would prohibit retail establishments from providing certain bags to customers. The anticipated cost to the City over five years is undetermined (see Fiscal Impact Analysis section).

### **Legislative Summary**

Currently, retailers are prohibited from providing customers with single-use plastic bags. The enactment of this legislation would modify current rules that restrict retail establishments from providing certain types of bags to customers, modify certain definitions, require retailers to charge a fee for a bag, and post signage reflecting the sale of bags.

### ***Definitions***

The enactment of this legislation would no longer use the term single-use plastic bag, and no longer define a plastic bag based on the thickness of the material.

### ***Exempted Bags***

The enactment of this legislation would exempt a bag without handles and a bag used to enclose utensils or condiments for use with prepared foods, sometimes known as a disposable utensil sleeve.

### ***Imposition of fees on Bags Provided to Customers***

No later than 60 days after the enactment of this legislation, retailers would be required to charge each customer 15 cents (\$0.15) per bag provided at the point of sale. This fee would not be required for any exempt bag or recyclable paper bag used to carry products for delivery order(s), drive-through order(s), or take-out order(s).

All fees collected by a retailer for the usage of a recyclable paper bag or a reuseable bag would be retained by the retailer and may not be refunded to the customer in any manner.

All fees charged for recyclable paper bags would be listed on a receipt provided to the customer at the time of sale and be identified as the "Carry-Out Bag Charge."

***Signage Related to Fees***

Beginning 30 days after the enactment of this legislation, but not to exceed 90 days, retailers would be required to post at all points of sale location(s), signage informing customers of bag fees.

**Proposed Effective Date**

This legislation would be effective immediately after enactment.

**Fiscal Impact Analysis**

All fees collected by a retailer, as a result of the enactment of this legislation, would be retained by the retailer. The City would not receive any revenue from the enactment of this legislation. The anticipated cost to the City over five years is undetermined.

***Department of Licenses and Inspections***

The Department anticipates that the potential financial impact of the legislation is undetermined because there is insufficient data. This can happen for various reasons, such as a lack of reliable data, insufficient detail in the legislative text, or uncertainty about how the proposed law would be implemented.

***Department of Commerce***

The Department anticipates absorbing any costs resulting from the enactment of this legislation within its existing resources. However, implementation would require educational components for both internal and external stakeholders. Commerce has partnerships with local chambers of commerce, business improvements districts and business associations. Any modification to business requirements in the City of Philadelphia would prompt Commerce to educate and train their current staff about the regulation and create plans for best practices to assist businesses with compliance.

**Legislative History**

The following legislative measures, among many things, proposed legislation to regulate waste from disposable shopping bags by creating an economic incentive for customers to use reusable shopping bags. The following highlights some of the key proposed changes:

- Adding Section 9-614, entitled "Mandatory Use of Recyclable and Compostable Checkout Bags" and "Advanced Recovery Fee (Green Fee) for disposable shopping bags."

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- A resolution calling all Philadelphia retail stores to implement plastic bag recycling, among many things, to include collection sites, public educational programs to reduce litter and bring awareness to reduce wasteful bagging practices.
- A resolution supporting PA Senate Bill 1080 seeking to reduce plastic bags in the trash.
- Adding Section 9-4100, entitled "Single-use Bags" to regulate the use of single-use bags and to establish a fee for these bags when purchasing food or other products.
- A resolution authorizing the Committee on the Environment to hold hearings regarding the threat of wasted plastics to the health, safety and wellbeing of the City and residents of Philadelphia.
- Adding Section 9-4500, entitled "Prohibition on Use of Certain Bags and Checkout Bag Charge," to permit the use of certain bags by retail establishments at the point of sale or for delivery, and establishing a charge payable by the customer to the retail establishment.
- Creating technical amendments and definitions.

<b>Bill/Resolution Number</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Introduced By</b>
070691	Not applicable - Lapsed	Former Councilmember DiCicco
090074	Not applicable - Failed	Former Councilmember DiCicco
090075	Not applicable - Lapsed	Former Councilmember DiCicco
090861	Adopted	Former Councilmember Reynolds Brown
090909	Not applicable - Lapsed	Former Councilmember DiCicco
130646	Adopted	Former Councilmember Reynolds Brown
150373	Not Applicable - Lapsed	Councilmember Squilla
180716	Not Applicable - Lapsed	Former Councilmember Green
190610-A	Enacted on December 30, 2019	Councilmember Squilla
210868	Not Applicable - Held in Committee	Councilmember Squilla
220364	Not Applicable - Pocket Vetoed	Councilmember Squilla

**Prepared by:** Policy and Fiscal Analyst Unit, Mayor's Office of Legislative Affairs

**Date:** 10/16/2025

This document is a summary of proposed legislation as introduced and is prepared by the Mayor's Office of Legislative Affairs for general information only. It does not represent the official legal position of the City. Estimates are calculated using the best information available. Actual costs and revenue impact incurred may vary from estimates.