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**Bill number:** 241131

**Introduced by:** Jones

**Cosponsor(s):** Not applicable

**Assigned committee:** Public Safety

**Date introduced:** 12/12/2024

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## Fiscal Note

### Overview

This bill would address the prohibition of operating a gasoline-powered leaf blowers. The anticipated cost to the City is \$692,000 over five years.

### Legislative Summary

This bill would prohibit the operation of gasoline-powered leaf blowers on any property in Philadelphia. Additionally, this bill sets civil penalties for any property owner or operator of a gasoline-powered leaf blower that violates the prohibition. A violation would include a warning of initial violation and a civil penalty of \$500 for subsequent violations.

### Proposed Effective Date

This legislation would be effective after December 1, 2025.

### Fiscal Impact Analysis

The estimated cost of implementing this legislation is summarized in the following table. The total cost is estimated to be \$692,000.

Fiscal Impact Summary	FY25	FY26	FY27	FY28	FY29	Total
<b>Expenditures</b>						
<b>Increase/(Decrease)</b>						
General Fund						
Class 300: Materials and Supplies	\$228,000	-	-	-	-	\$228,000

Fiscal Impact Summary	FY25	FY26	FY27	FY28	FY29	Total
<b>Expenditures Increase/(Decrease)</b> Water Fund Class 300: Materials and Supplies	\$28,000	-	-	-	-	<b>\$28,000</b>
<b>Expenditures Increase/(Decrease)</b> General Fund Class 400: Equipment	\$408,000	-	-	-	-	<b>\$408,000</b>
<b>Expenditures Increase/(Decrease)</b> Water Fund Class 400: Equipment	\$28,000	-	-	-	-	<b>\$28,000</b>
<b>Expenditures Increase/(Decrease)</b> Cost Savings	*	*	*	*	*	*
<b>Revenues Increase/(Decrease)</b> General Fund	**	**	**	**	**	**
<b>Net Cost/(Savings)</b>	<b>\$692,000</b>	-	-	-	-	<b>\$692,000</b>

The above table's values are rounded to the nearest thousand.

\*Cost Savings: This legislation would create some cost savings for Departments, impacting both the General Fund and Water Fund. Cost savings would be caused by the decrease in gasoline usage from the enactment of this legislation.

\*\* Revenues: This legislation would create civil penalties for non-compliance; therefore, the revenue impact of this legislation would depend on the level of non-compliance and enforcement instances.

### **Expenditures**

The Departments below indicated that battery-powered leaf blowers pose several operational issues. For example, battery-powered leaf blowers are significantly less powerful than gas-powered leaf blowers, possibly increasing the time to cover one area. Additionally, the comparatively weak battery life of battery-powered leaf blower models would cause operational difficulties as recharging units may cause delays in productivity.

- **Department of Commerce:** If enacted, this legislation would not pose a direct fiscal impact on the Department. However, the legislation would fiscally impact contracted vendors that work with the Department and its programs, including the Taking Care of Business corridor cleaning program.

- **Philadelphia Parks & Recreation:** If enacted, this legislation would force the Department to replace 86 gas-powered leaf blowers (backpack and handheld models) with battery-powered backpack and handheld leaf blowers. The Department would also need to purchase 114 batteries (2 per unit), 86 chargers, and 58 backpack batteries. The Department indicated that the cost of this legislation may increase, if the Department is required to use overtime to compensate for the delays caused by the battery-powered leaf blowers.  
**Total: \$161,337\***
- **Department of Sanitation:** If enacted, this legislation would force the Department to replace 174 gas-powered leaf blowers with battery-powered backpack leaf blowers. The Department would also need to purchase 44 portable chargers.  
**Total: \$345,926\***
- **Community Life Improvement Program (CLIP):** If enacted, this legislation would force CLIP to replace 37 units of gas-powered leaf blowers with battery-powered backpack leaf blowers. CLIP would also need to purchase 74 backpack batteries (2 per unit) and 37 chargers.  
**Total: \$128,722\***
- **Philadelphia Water Department (PWD):** If enacted, this legislation would force PWD to replace 40 units of gas-powered leaf blowers with battery-powered leaf blowers. PWD would also need to purchase 80 batteries (2 per unit) and 40 chargers. PWD also maintains several green stormwater infrastructure sites around the City. Some of this maintenance is contracted out to vendors. Therefore, this legislation would fiscally impact the contract vendors that rely on gas-powered leaf blowers.  
**Total: \$55,558 (Water Fund)\***

\* Totals are rounded to the nearest dollar. The Departments would purchase models that meet the needs of their respective Departments. The purchased models would have different unit costs. For example, the difference between CLIP's and PWD's totals is largely due to different battery models.

## **Legislative History**

Not applicable

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

**Date:** 02/13/2025

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.