



Howard County

Internal Memorandum

Subject: Testimony & Fiscal Impact Statement

Council Resolution No. 40-2015 A RESOLUTION approving a comprehensive revision of the Solid Waste Management Plan that also includes special events recycling as required by State Law, and

Council Bill No. 15-2015 AN ACT requiring certain recycling services for certain special events; requiring compliance with the County's Solid Waste Management Plan; authorizing certain inspections; providing for certain penalties; and generally related to special events recycling in Howard County.

To: Lonnie R. Robbins,
Chief Administrative Officer

From: James M. Irvin, Director 
Department of Public Works

Date: March 31, 2015

The Department of Public Works has been designated coordinator for the preparation of testimony relative to CR-40-2015 and CB-15-2015. Section 9-503 of the Environment Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland (the "State Law") requires each Maryland County to have a solid waste management and recycling plan that covers at least the 10-year period following adoption of the plan by the county governing body. Howard County's previous Solid Waste Management Plan, 2003-2013, was adopted by passage of Council Resolution No. 136-2003. State Law further provides that counties shall adopt revisions or amendments to its plan if the Maryland Department of the Environment requires a revision or amendment.

The previously approved 2003 Plan was revised to incorporate four Plan amendments which were adopted either by bill or resolution by the County Council. These amendments are now fully integrated into this new Plan. The amendments were:

- CR117-2010 addressed recycling in public schools
- CR 110-2011 addressed collecting and recycling of fluorescent light bulbs that contain mercury
- CR7-2014 required apartment and condominium to submit recycling plans to the county
- CB2-2014 provided enforcement for compliance with the apartment/condo recycling law at the local level.

Additionally, during its 2014 legislative session, the General Assembly passed Senate Bill 781 that requires counties include special event recycling in their plans by October 1, 2015. Special events recycling applies to events that (1) include a temporary or periodic use of a public street, publicly owned site or facility, or public park; (2) serve food or drinks; and (3) are expected to

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have 200 or more people in attendance. The special event organizer must provide for the collection and recycling of recyclable materials.

The Plan was submitted to the Planning and Public Works Boards in January and March, respectively. The Plan received approval from both Boards.

Section 9-1712(d) of the State Law provides that a person who violates the Special Events Recycling requirements is subject to a civil penalty and Section 9-1712(e) authorizes certain inspections. CB 15-2015 inserts those provisions into our County Code, consistent with other penalty and inspection requirements.

There is minimal fiscal impact.