

**Office of the County Auditor**  
**Auditor's Analysis**

**Council Bill No. 6-2021**

Introduced: January 4, 2021

Auditor: Michelle R. Harrod

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Fiscal Impact:

According to the Administration, the fiscal impact of this legislation is approximately \$1,000 annually for education and outreach.

No additional costs, resources, or revenues are expected from this legislation. The Administration has indicated the following:

- Training, education, and outreach would be conducted using existing resources;
- Howard County does not collect from commercial buildings; and
- Costs to modify the County Recycling Plan will be absorbed by existing staff.

There will be no general fund revenue used to pay the expenditures associated with this bill. Revenue collected in the Environmental Services Fund will be utilized.

Purpose:

The purpose of this legislation is to amend the County Code to establish changes required by the passage of Senate Bill 370. This Senate bill requires Counties to submit an Office Building Recycling Plan (Plan) for buildings that are 150,000 gross square feet or greater. Plan stipulations include:

- Accounting for the collection and recycling of recyclable materials;
- Provision of recycling receptacles by the owner of the office building;
- Removal of recyclables, to be managed by the owner;
- Compliance with the requirements of the Plan; and
- Authorizing the County to inspect and enforce the Plan.

Civil penalties for violating the Plan stipulations are proposed as Class E Offenses, which carry a fine of \$25 to \$50 per occurrence.

The owner or tenant shall report to the County on the recycling activities noted in the Plan.

Other Comments:

Companion legislation is Council Resolution 10-2021, which proposes the Office Building Recycling Plan. This Plan must be adopted by October 1, 2021 and submitted to the Secretary of the Environment.

According to the Administration, there are currently eight buildings which are affected by this legislation. The location of those buildings is listed in **Exhibit 1** below.

**Exhibit 2** (attached) is the most recent Annual Business Recycling Report Survey. The Administration has indicated that the information is reported in tons and that 2018 is the most recent verified report.

The Administration further indicated that this legislation would make it a requirement for businesses to report their recycling efforts, which should provide a more accurate indication of the County's recycling efforts.

**Exhibit 1 – Howard County Buildings over 150,000 Square Feet**

<b>Property Address</b>	<b>City</b>	<b>Property Manager</b>	<b>Combined Sq. Ft.</b>
6841 Benjamin Franklin Dr. (Franklin Center)	Columbia	Trans Western Real Estate	200,603
7031 Columbia Gateway Dr.	Columbia	Avison Young	247,624
6460 Dobbin Rd.	Columbia	NAI Klnb	160,200
10661 Gramercy Pl. (70 Corporate Center)	Columbia	NAI Klnb	168,647
10175 Little Patuxent Parkway	Columbia	Mackenzie	301,851
6100 Merriweather Dr.	Columbia	Howard Hughes	325,600
6011, 6021, 6031 University Parkway	Elkridge	Merritt Properties	163,900
8110-8170 Maple Lawn Blvd.	Fulton	St. John Properties	258,299

*Table provided by Department of Public Works. It has indicated this list may change as properties are constructed and leased.*



