

**BILL NO. BL2018-1173** (BLALOCK & FREEMAN) – This ordinance would prohibit retail establishments from providing single-use plastic bags to customers, beginning January 1, 2019. Single-use plastic bags would also be prohibited at Metro facilities, Metro-sponsored events, or events held on Metro property. Establishments could still provide or sell reusable bags to customers, and reusable bags could be used at Metro facilities, Metro-sponsored events, and events on Metro property.

Exemptions to this ordinance would be authorized for laundry dry cleaning bags, door-hanger bags, newspaper bags, and bags for garbage, pet waste, and yard waste. Bags used by pharmacists or veterinarians that contain prescribed drugs or medical necessities, bags for takeaway prepared food, and bags used by a consumer within a retail establishment for bulk items (produce, nuts, grains, candy, small hardware items), frozen foods, meat, fish, plants (flowers, potted plants, etc.), and unwrapped prepared foods or bakery goods would also be exempt. Bags used by non-profit corporations or hunger relief charities to distribute food, groceries, clothing, and household items would further be exempt. Enforcement would be authorized through any one of four departments -- Public Works, Metro Nashville Police Department, Codes Administration, and/or the Department of Health

Violations of this ordinance would be punishable by a fine not exceeding \$10 for the first violation, \$25 for the second violation, and \$50 for the third and any subsequent violation. A fine could be imposed for each day a violation occurs or is allowed to continue.

*Fiscal Note: It would be speculative to predict the amount of revenue increase that could result from the fines established by this ordinance. However, this would be offset at least to some extent by the increased cost of enforcement.*