

City of Philadelphia



Philadelphia, November 13, 2025

CERTIFICATION: This is to certify that Bill No. 250773 was presented to the Mayor on the thirtieth day of October, 2025 and was not returned to the Council with their signature at a meeting held November 13, 2025 (being more than ten days after it had been presented to them).

THEREFORE, Pursuant to the provisions of Section 2-202 of the Philadelphia Home Rule Charter, the ordinance becomes as effective as if the Mayor had approved it.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Elizabeth McCollum".

Elizabeth McCollum
Chief Clerk of the City Council

(Bill No. 250773)

AN ORDINANCE

Amending Chapter 9-4900 of The Philadelphia Code, entitled “Prohibition on Use of Certain Bags by Retail Establishments,” to modify certain definitions, require retail establishments to charge a fee for the provision of a bag to customers, and require signage, all under certain terms and conditions.

WHEREAS, notwithstanding the groundbreaking efforts of Council in establishing a ban on the use of certain plastic bags by retail establishment in the City through adoption of Bill No. 190610-A (approved December 30, 2019), additional efforts are needed to encourage shoppers to bring their own reusable bags for the purpose of removing retail items purchased at stores, in order to reduce continued overuse of single-use and thick plastic bags; now therefore,

THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA HEREBY ORDAINS:

SECTION 1. Title 9 The Philadelphia Code is hereby amended as follows:

TITLE 9. REGULATION OF BUSINESSES, TRADES AND PROFESSIONS

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City of Philadelphia

BILL NO. 250773 continued

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CHAPTER 9-4900. PROHIBITION ON USE OF CERTAIN BAGS BY RETAIL ESTABLISHMENTS *AND CHECKOUT BAG FEE*

§ 9-4901. Definitions.

* * *

(2) Exempted Bag means:

- (a) a bag *without handles* used inside a retail establishment by a customer to deliver perishable items to the point of sale at that establishment, such as: to package bulk items such as fruit, vegetables, nuts, grains, or candy; to contain or wrap meats or fish; to contain unwrapped prepared foods or bakery goods; or to contain or wrap flowers, potted plants, or similar items;
- (b) a bag sold in packaging containing multiple bags and packaged at the time of manufacture of the [bag.] *bag*; or
- (c) *a bag used to enclose utensils or condiments for use with prepared foods, sometimes known as a disposable utensil sleeve.*

(3) Plastic means [solid material that is produced from petrochemicals and that is often used to make bags for carrying products out of retail establishments] *a synthetic material made from linking monomers through a chemical reaction to create a polymer chain that can be molded or extruded at high heat into various solid forms that retain their defined shapes during their life cycle and after disposal, including material derived from either petrochemicals or a biologically based polymer, such as corn or other plant sources.*

* * *

(6) [Single-use] Plastic Bag means a bag made from plastic [that is less than 2.25 mils thick or] *and* made through a blown-film extrusion process, but not including an Exempted Bag.

§ 9-4902. Prohibition Against Single-Use Plastic Bags.

(1) Beginning 90 days after the Effective Date, Retail Establishments are prohibited from providing a [Single- use] Plastic Bag or a non-Recyclable Paper Bag to a customer at the retail establishment or through a [delivery.] *delivery, whether for free or for a cost.*

* * *

§ 9-4905. Imposition of Fees on Bags Provided to Customer.

City of Philadelphia

BILL NO. 250773 continued

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(1) No later than 60 days after this provision becomes effective, retail establishments shall charge each customer a fee of no less than 10 cents (\$0.10)) per bag provided at the point of sale. No such fee shall be required for the provision or sale of an exempted bag or of a Recyclable Paper Bag used to carry products for a delivery order, drive-through order, or prepared food take-out order.

(2) All fees collected by a retail establishment under this section for the provision of a Recyclable Paper Bag or reusable bag shall be retained by the retail establishment and may not be refunded to the customer in any manner.

(3) Fees charged for the provision of recyclable paper bags shall be separately stated on a receipt provided to the customer at the time of sale and shall be identified as the “Carry-Out Bag Charge.”

§ 9-4906. Signage Related to Fees.

(1) Beginning no later than 30 days after this provision becomes effective and until 90 days after such date, retail establishments are required to post at points of sale where bags are normally offered, including publicly accessible e-commerce platforms, conspicuous signage informing customers concerning the imposition of fees for any bags provided at the location.

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City of Philadelphia

BILL NO. 250773 continued

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CERTIFICATION: This is a true and correct copy of the original Bill, Passed by the City Council on October 30, 2025.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Elizabeth McCollum". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Elizabeth" and last name "McCollum" clearly distinguishable.

Elizabeth McCollum
Chief Clerk of the City Council