

Introduced By: Councilmember Wright

CITY OF TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND

RESOLUTION #2010-35

**Resolution Authorizing Transmittal of Legislative Action Requests
To the Maryland Municipal League for Consideration**

WHEREAS, the Takoma Park City Council is charged with setting policy and pursuing legislative changes in the best interests of the Takoma Park community; and

WHEREAS, the City of Takoma Park is an active member of the Maryland Municipal League; and

WHEREAS, the Maryland Municipal League pursues legislative changes that would benefit Maryland municipalities; and

WHEREAS, the Council has identified its legislative priorities for submission to the Maryland Municipal League Legislative Committee; and

WHEREAS, the Council's priorities are protection of the environment by encouraging the use of durable and reusable shopping bags, third party review/arbitration on tax duplication disputes, and municipal revenue enhancements .

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the City of Takoma Park authorizes the City Manager to transmit the attached Legislative Action Requests; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the City Council urges the Maryland Municipal League Legislative Committee to consider legislation related to the bag bill, third party review/arbitration on tax duplication disputes, and municipal revenue enhancements as indicated in the attached Legislative Action Requests.

Adopted this 21st day of June, 2010.

ATTEST:

Jessie Carpenter
City Clerk

2011 MML LEGISLATIVE REQUEST

Name of Municipality, Chapter or Department submitting request: City of Takoma Park

Contact Person/Title: Suzanne Ludlow, Deputy City Manager

Address/City/State/Zip: 7500 Maple Avenue, Takoma Park, MD 20912

Telephone numbers: (Work) 301-891-7229 Email: SuzanneL@takomagov.org

Please complete this form in its entirety. Attach additional sheets, if necessary, as well as documents related to your request. **LAR FORM MUST BE RETURNED VIA MAIL OR E-MAIL NO LATER THAN FRIDAY, JULY 2, 2010.**

INTRODUCTION

1. Describe the problem or situation the request is intended to address: Plastic shopping bags are found as litter across the State. Litter degrades the appearance of communities and municipalities must devote resources to picking up litter.
2. Describe the requested legislation: Establish a charge of five cents for retail shopping bags not provided by the consumer. (Similar to law in Washington, D.C. that is working well.)
3. Describe how the requested legislation would remedy the problem: Consumers would be more likely to use durable, reusable shopping bags, thus reducing the number of disposable bags in the waste stream.
4. The proposed legislation would address: Only your municipality
 Only municipalities in your county Municipalities in the entire state
 All counties and municipalities in the entire state
5. Would the proposed remedy have a significant fiscal impact on your municipality? No.

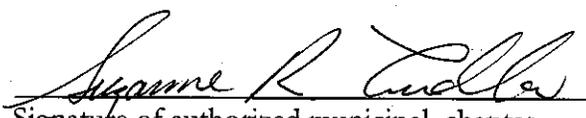
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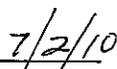
BACKGROUND INFORMATION

1. Could the problem be resolved by something other than a new law, i.e., action by another level of government or changes in administrative procedures? A similar federal law could be passed, but is unlikely.
2. If administrative remedies have already been pursued, what were they and what was the outcome?
N/A
3. What other state and/or local agencies, if any, would be affected by this proposal? The collection and redistribution of the money would be done by the State.
4. Have any state agencies been contacted about the proposal? No
If yes, what was their reaction?

HISTORICAL INFORMATION

1. Has the League considered this proposal in a previous year? No If yes, describe any significant changes in circumstances that might improve its chances of success in 2011:
2. Has this request been considered by the General Assembly in prior sessions? Yes If yes, please provide the bill number, year, and outcome of legislation, if known: HB 351/SB 462 was proposed in the 2010 Session, but received an unfavorable report from Environmental Matters. A similar bill was also proposed in 2009 (HB 1210).
3. Has this proposed legislation been implemented by any other city, county or state? Yes If yes, please describe where it has been implemented and cite any existing law or model code upon which the proposal is based: Washington, D.C. passed a similar bill last year, with proceeds going to efforts to help the Anacostia River. The law has been well-received and appears to be effective.


Signature of authorized municipal, chapter
or departmental official


Print name 
Date

Please return LAR form to:

MML Legislative Committee
1212 West Street
Annapolis, MD 21401
ATTN: Jessica Barnes

E-mail: jessicab@mdmunicipal.org

Indicate the date of the meeting where the governing body of the municipality, chapter or department endorsed the request: June 21, 2010

FORM MUST BE RETURNED NO LATER THAN Friday, July 2, 2010

2011 MML LEGISLATIVE REQUEST

Name of Municipality, Chapter or Department submitting request: City of Takoma Park

Contact Person/Title: Suzanne Ludlow, Deputy City Manager

Address/City/State/Zip: 7500 Maple Avenue, Takoma Park, MD 20912

Telephone numbers: (Work) 301-891-7229 Email: SuzanneL@takomagov.org

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INTRODUCTION

1. Describe the problem or situation the request is intended to address: Maryland municipalities are facing the most difficult fiscal situations in many years. As the Maryland Municipal League has noted, there are few revenue "tools in our toolbox" to handle the budget challenges we face in a way that our residents feel is appropriate. Municipalities need to be well-represented on work groups studying revenue issues and need to look at a broad range of revenue issues in order to be successful in gaining revenue options.
2. Describe the requested legislation: A variety of bills or efforts should be pursued. A) For the Highway User Revenue work group, ensure that more than just a couple of municipal representatives are part of the group. B) Establish a second work group to analyze local government revenue sources and options for additional sources, identify impediments to using these mechanisms, and provide recommendations back to the General Assembly. C) Increase the percentage of income tax revenue municipalities receive (from the existing 17%) and/or allow municipalities to charge additional income tax that just returns to the municipality. D) Investigate why financial institutions are largely exempt from personal property taxes. E) Where municipal tax duplication rebates or setoffs exist, provide mechanisms to check County data for accuracy and provide an appeals process for the municipality.
3. Describe how the requested legislation would remedy the problem: Municipalities would be allowed to address their particular fiscal needs using the tools most appropriate for their own communities, if a wide variety of tools exist.
4. The proposed legislation would address: Only your municipality
 Only municipalities in your county Municipalities in the entire state
 All counties and municipalities in the entire state
5. Would the proposed remedy have a significant fiscal impact on your municipality? Yes

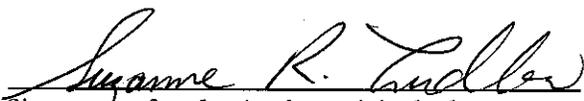
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BACKGROUND INFORMATION

1. Could the problem be resolved by something other than a new law, i.e., action by another level of government or changes in administrative procedures? Increasing the number of municipal representatives participating in revenue enhancement work groups may or may not require legislative action. Investigation into the exemption from personal property taxes of financial institutions may show that correction of this may not be legislative.
2. If administrative remedies have already been pursued, what were they and what was the outcome? None known.
3. What other state and/or local agencies, if any, would be affected by this proposal? Unknown.
4. Have any state agencies been contacted about the proposal? If yes, what was their reaction? No.

HISTORICAL INFORMATION

1. Has the League considered this proposal in a previous year? If yes, describe any significant changes in circumstances that might improve its chances of success in 2011: MML has been working on revenue enhancement for several years. The highly visible impact of last year's cuts in State revenue to municipalities works in the League's favor this year.
2. Has this request been considered by the General Assembly in prior sessions? If yes, please provide the bill number, year, and outcome of legislation, if known: These legislative actions have not been addressed in recent years, to our knowledge.
3. Has this proposed legislation been implemented by any other city, county or state? If yes, please describe where it has been implemented and cite any existing law or model code upon which the proposal is based: Most other states allow municipalities to have many ways for revenue enhancement that are not provided for in Maryland.


Signature of authorized municipal, chapter
or departmental official

Suzanne R. Ludlow 7/2/10
Print name Date

Please return LAR form to:

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