

Resolution in Support of Enacting Legislation and laws that would Ban Single-use Plastic Straws in the City of Baltimore

Introduced by: Senator Joseph Hensgen & Senator Stephen Jenkins

Sponsored by: Senator Joseph Hensgen, Senator Stephen Jenkins

Written by: Senator Joseph Hensgen, Senator Stephen Jenkins, President Daniel Khoshkepazi

WHEREAS, Single-use plastics are a major contributor to terrestrial and aquatic pollution locally and globally;

WHEREAS, the reduction of consumption and use of single use plastics benefits the environment and the future of our planet by reducing the amount of plastic waste created;

WHEREAS, City of Baltimore needs to take on a leadership role to implement such change, because such efforts will ultimately reduce plastic pollution and lead to the betterment of our environment;

WHEREAS, Baltimore City has already experienced the negative effects such as environmental depletion caused by single use plastics such as plastic straws and enacting laws that would prohibit the wide distribution of such single use plastics will result in cleaner environment,

WHEREAS, the implementation of bans and limitations on different types of single use plastics such as plastic bags have already started in Maryland and Baltimore City;

WHEREAS, many towns, cities, local municipalities, counties, and states around the country in addition to Baltimore City and Maryland have already passed laws that limit/restrict the use of a variety of (disposable) single-use plastic material that are commonplace in our daily lives, and many more are in the process of phasing out the use of such plastics;

WHEREAS, private companies such as Starbucks are also working towards reducing the use of disposable single-use plastic materials (e.g., straws, plastic bags, take-out containers) to reduce plastic pollution. They are also seeking more sustainable alternatives to single-use plastics in the marketplace.

WHEREAS, based on an all campus survey conducted by SGA, over 77% of students believed that SGA should be advocating for the betterment of our environment within our city,

WHEREAS, banning straws can have negative consequences for persons with disabilities who need to use the instrument.

THEREFORE, LET IT BE ENACTED:

SECTION 1: The University of Baltimore Student Government Association, on behalf of University of Baltimore students, supports efforts, and recommends that Baltimore City, implement legislation that would restrict and limit the wide-scale distribution of single-use plastic bags and straws in their respective regional jurisdiction. These efforts to reduce plastic waste production will protect local and regional terrestrial and aquatic habitats such as the Chesapeake Bay, as well as respective organisms and our community members from long-term impacts of plastic pollution.

SECTION 2: That the University of Baltimore SGA recommends Baltimore City when they enact a plastic straw ban, to also add a clause that would make plastic straws available for persons with disabilities upon request.

SECTION 3: Copies of this resolution shall be forwarded to: UB President Kurt Schmoke, UB Governance Steering Council, Office of Baltimore City Mayor and City Council Representatives.

Date introduced: 11/11/2020

Date passed: 11/11/2020

Speaker of Senate Joseph Ha

Joseph Ha

(signature)

Vice President Kevin McHugh

Kevin McHugh

(signature)

President Daniel Khoshkepazi

Daniel Khoshkepazi

(signature)