

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS FOR RETAILERS

Q. When does the law go into effect?

A. The law goes into effect on January 1, 2018.

Q. Will fines be assessed starting on January 1, 2018?

A. From January 1, 2018 through June 30, 2018 fines will not be assessed for non-compliance. During this period stores covered by this law will be educated on compliance.

Q. Is the 5¢ fee taxable?

A. Retailers should consult with their tax advisor for the applicability of sales tax.

Q. Can retailers provide reusable bags to customers free of charge?

A. Stores may provide their customers with reusable bags free of charge for a two-week period each year from December 1 to December 15.

Q. Which stores are covered under this law?

A. Drug stores, grocery stores, home centers, stationery stores, supermarkets, office supply stores, convenience stores, apparel stores, hardware stores, food marts.

Q. Which stores are not covered under this law?

A. Food service establishments, such as restaurants that are located outside of grocery stores, supermarkets, convenience stores and food marts.

Q. Are liquor stores covered under this law?

A. Liquor stores are covered under this law and are required to charge a minimum of 5¢ for carryout bags.



Q. Which bags require a 5¢ fee?

A. All bags provided to customers at the point of sale used to carry goods from the store to home.

Q. Which bags are not covered?

A. A bag without handles used to carry produce, meats, poultry, fish, dairy, dry goods, and any other non-prepackaged food items to the point of sale within a store or to prevent such food items from coming into contact with other purchased items, a bag to carry a pharmacy prescriptions, or a garment bag.

Q. Can a store make a charge against or deduct from the wages of an employee to offset any penalty resulting from enforcement of this law?

A. Stores are prohibited from making charges against, or deduction from, the wages of an employee to offset any penalty assessed against the store as a result of enforcement of this law.

Q. What happens to the bag fees that are collected?

A. All fees collected under this law shall be retained by the store.

