

## **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.



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