

BY AUTHORITY

1
2 ORDINANCE NO. _____
3 SERIES OF 2025

COUNCIL BILL NO. CB 25-2009
COMMITTEE OF REFERENCE:
Transportation and Infrastructure

A BILL

6 **For an ordinance amending Denver Revised Municipal Code Section 2-428**
7 **concerning the purposes and allowed uses of monies in the city disposable bag**
8 **fee fund.**

9
10 **WHEREAS**, Denver is committed to being a leader in waste prevention, diversion, and
11 circularity;

12 **WHEREAS**, Denver’s leadership in waste reduction through its passage of the Disposable
13 Bag Fee policy has resulted in the avoidance of more than 50,000,000 plastic bags since 2021;

14 **WHEREAS**, Disposable Bag Fee Fund revenue generated by the \$0.10 fee on disposable
15 bags has been used, to date, to administer the program, provide education, support community
16 cleanups, help restaurants transition away from single-use service ware, and distribute free,
17 reusable bags to the public; and

18 **WHEREAS**, updating and expanding the allowable uses of the Fund enables the ongoing and
19 successful implementation of the Disposable Bag Fee Program, including single-use waste reduction
20 efforts and communitywide waste reduction and circular economy priorities that further expedite
21 progress towards Denver’s citywide waste diversion goals.

22
23 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY AND COUNTY OF**
24 **DENVER:**

25 **Section 1.** That Section 2-428 of Denver Revised Municipal Code is amended by deleting
26 the language stricken below and adding the language underlined below to read as follows:

27 **Sec. 2-428. Purposes and allowed uses of monies in city disposable bag fee fund.**

28 Monies from the disposable bag fee shall be used to defray the costs to the city for administering the
29 disposable bag fee program and related activities, ~~which may include~~ including specifically the
30 following ~~specific~~ uses:

31 (a) Administrative costs associated with developing, implementing, and administering the
32 disposable bag fee;

33 (b) Costs to Pprovide reusable carryout bags to residents and visitors;

1 (c) Educate residents, businesses, and visitors about the requirements of the
2 program and impact of disposable bags on the city's environmental health, the importance of
3 reducing the number of disposable plastic bags and other single-use products entering the waste
4 stream, and the expenses associated with mitigating the effects of disposable bags on the city's
5 drainage system, transportation system, recycling system, wildlife, and environment;

6 (d) ~~Fund~~ Programs and infrastructure that allow the city to reduce waste associated with
7 disposable bags and other single-use products;

8 (e) ~~Purchase and install~~ Equipment designed to minimize bag pollution, including,
9 recycling containers, and waste receptacles associated with disposable bags and other single-use
10 products;

11 (f) ~~Fund~~ Community cleanup events and other activities that reduce trash associated
12 with disposable bags and single-use products;

13 (g) ~~Mitigate~~ Mitigation for the effects of disposable bags and single-use products on the
14 city's drainage system, transportation system, recycling system, wildlife, and environment;

15 (h) ~~Conduct~~ Studies of disposable bag usage and the impact of the disposable bag fee
16 in Denver;

17 (i) ~~Maintain a public website that educates residents on the progress of waste reduction~~
18 ~~efforts associated with disposable bags and single-use products; and~~

19 (j) ~~Develop a task force to analyze the data and impact, and to recommend~~
20 ~~improvements.~~

21 (i) Programs, policies, events, and infrastructure to advance Denver's circular economy,
22 such as support to local and regional end markets and reuse and repair initiatives;

23 (j) Education, coordination, resources, and compliance-related support for citywide
24 universal recycling and composting requirements impacting multi-family and commercial properties,
25 permitted events, and construction and demolition projects; and

26 (k) Special or catalytic investments into the city's residential solid waste programs that
27 support citywide waste diversion goals.

28
29 **REMAINDER OF PAGE INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK**

1 COMMITTEE APPROVAL DATE: December 3, 2025

2 MAYOR-COUNCIL DATE: December 9, 2025

3 PASSED BY THE COUNCIL: 12/22/2025 _____,

4 Signed by: *Amanda P. Sandoval* - PRESIDENT
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5 APPROVED: _____ Signed by: *Michael C. Johnston* - MAYOR 12/23/2025 _____,
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6 ATTEST: _____ - CLERK AND RECORDER,
7 EX-OFFICIO CLERK OF THE
8 CITY AND COUNTY OF DENVER

9 NOTICE PUBLISHED IN THE DENVER POST: _____ ; _____,

10 PREPARED BY: Kristin Brainerd, Assistant City Attorney DATE: December 11, 2025

11 Pursuant to section 13-9, D.R.M.C., this proposed ordinance has been reviewed by the office of the
12 City Attorney. We find no irregularity as to form and have no legal objection to the proposed
13 ordinance. The proposed ordinance is not submitted to the City Council for approval pursuant to §
14 3.2.6 of the Charter.

15
16 Miko Ando Brown, Denver City Attorney

17 Signed by: *Jonathan Griffin* _____, Assistant City Attorney
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DATE: 12/11/2025 | 10:43 AM MST