

Written Testimony on HB 2625

Presented to the House Committee on Commerce, Labor and Economic Development

by KDHE, Division of Environment

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The Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) appreciates the opportunity to provide testimony on HB 2625 which prohibits Kansas municipalities from regulating paper or plastic carry out bags and other single use plastic items.

Kansas statute and policy establish a system of cooperative state and local planning, a system which recognizes that plans developed at the local level will take into consideration local resources and needs and therefore best serve the community. K.S.A. 65-3401 establishes policy related to solid waste planning in Kansas.

The Kansas Department of Health and Environment is directed to assist counties in developing and implementing solid waste management plans per K.S.A. 65-3406(a)(9). However, K.S.A. 65-3405 directs and authorizes counties and cities to develop and implement local solid waste management plans to address local waste management needs. This statute also established requirements for local solid waste management committees as well as specifying the requirements all county solid waste management plans must meet.

Local plans are required to consider the development of solid waste reduction, reuse and recycling programs in order to reduce the amount of solid waste generated and disposed in landfills. These plans are developed with input from a local solid waste management committee, comprised of members appointed by the board of county commissioners or a designated city. The committees have broad representation from local public agencies, private industry, the local recycling coordinator, citizen organizations and the general public, and other persons deemed appropriate by the appointing body. Broad representation ensures all stakeholders have a voice at the table.

By prohibiting the regulation of single use plastic items by municipalities, HB 2625 conflicts with the state's long-standing policy and practice of local solid waste planning.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this bill.