

Highlights of Council Bill No. 150748 (Councilwoman Bass), amending Chapter 10-700 (Refuse & Littering) of Philadelphia Code

Chapter/Section	Action	Basis/Desired Outcomes
Preamble	Recognizes Act 101, SWRAC, changes to recycling stream, organics recycling feasibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acknowledges 2015 challenges (compared to 1987 and 1994) • Reaffirms commitment to recycling and waste reduction
10-701 (Definitions)	Modifies certain definitions, including for “operator”, “recyclable materials”, and “regulated premises”.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Recyclables materials” definition needs updating. For example, does not currently recognize newer materials (e.g. aseptic packaging, mixed plastics) • “Operator” definition to allow for more clarity re: responsible party (owner, landlord, tenant)
10-717 (Collection of Municipal Waste and Recyclable Materials)	Strikes 10-717 in its entirety; replaces with language allowing Streets Commissioner to issue regulations on public and private recyclables collections, materials accepted, containers, etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10-717 Still references source-separated recycling; single-stream recycling can be interpreted as being non-compliant • Identify targeted materials with focus on modern approaches and market • An inter-agency task force as detailed in 10-717 isn’t necessary today and would be extremely difficult to convene and administer; • References recycling business representatives who do not exist (glass recyclers, private haulers for residential MSW), buy-back centers, multiple (at least 6) processing facilities • Advisory committee’s powers extend beyond advising (appeal, override, mandate policy approaches); would function almost as an independent agency • Limits quantities of recyclables that can be set-out • Established unrealistic (in hindsight) goals and milestone dates
10-718 (Enforcement)	Adds Streets Department as an agency authorized to enforce ordinances.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enforcement provisions not reflective of modern practice, or practical (Police, L&I); needs to identify Streets Department as the enforcement agency • Fines for non-compliance need to be increased from \$50
10-724 (Commercial Sector Waste Management and Recycling)	Allow Streets Commissioner to issues regulations that modernize and establish or confirm regulated premises expectations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access by inspectors needs better definition • Solid waste and recycling plan filing frequency needs to be addressed (should they be updated every 2-3 years?) • Consider service level requirements and guidelines (example: minimum service levels 40% recyclables capacity to 60% garbage capacity) • Employee & tenant education requirements need to be better specified; signage requirements for dumpsters