

## City mulls plastic bag ban

*by UPI*

ANNAPOLIS, Md. -- A bill to be voted on by the City Council of Annapolis, Md., would ban the use of plastic bags in all retail stores. The council is scheduled to vote on the bill, which is aimed at protecting fish and birds in Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries from the choking hazards the bags present, in October, The New York Times reported Tuesday. The ban would require stores to do away with plastic bags in favor of paper bags made from recycled material. "Banning plastic makes sense for the simple reason that it takes more than 1,000 years to biodegrade, which means that every single piece of plastic we've ever manufactured is still around, and much of it ends up in the oceans killing animals," said Alexandra Cousteau, granddaughter of Jacques Cousteau and director of EarthEcho, a Washington environmental education group. However, some contend the ban would be expensive and ineffectual. "It sounds good until you consider the cost," said Barry Scher, a spokesman for Giant Food, the grocery chain based in Landover, Md. Scher said the city should instead start enforcing its litter laws.

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