



Metropolitan Nashville and Davidson County, TN

Legislation Text

File #: RS2023-2287, **Version:** 1

A resolution requesting that the Department of Water and Sewerage Services, Waste Services Division, study creation of a department or other entity dedicated to solid waste reduction, diversion, and disposal responsibilities and to develop a strategy and organizational framework that manages solid waste, recyclables, organics, and other materials for the residents of Nashville and Davidson County to fulfill the Zero Waste Master Plan.

WHEREAS, RS2021-794 approved a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to transfer solid waste disposal responsibilities from the Department of Public Works to the Department of Water and Sewerage Services with a term of three years, expiring June 30, 2024; and

WHEREAS, since July 1, 2021, the Department of Water and Sewerage Services has overseen personnel and operational activities relating to solid waste disposal, i.e., the collection and disposal of garbage and other refuse, and the maintenance and operation of facilities for the disposal of same from the urban services district and refuse disposal in the general services district; and

WHEREAS, with the MOU expiring on June 30, 2024, there is a need to evaluate functions performed by the Department of Water and Sewerage Services to determine the potential need for the creation of new dedicated departments or authorities, and/or the realignment of existing functions within existing departments; and

WHEREAS, the Nashville and the Middle Tennessee region will continue to face imminent significant challenges related to solid waste management, including the likelihood that local landfills will reach capacity within 3-5 years; and

WHEREAS, in December 2019, Nashville's Solid Waste Region Board approved a Zero Waste Master Plan which provides policy framework to lead the region in reducing waste to landfill by 90%. The Plan included analysis of multiple strategies for waste reduction. The plan was then adopted by Metro Council in August 2021 pursuant to RS2021-1030; and

WHEREAS, to successfully implement the strategy and policy recommendations within the Zero Waste Master Plan, the Metropolitan Government must develop organizational capacity and a financial strategy capable of executing the Zero Waste Master Plan.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE METROPOLITAN GOVERNMENT OF NASHVILLE AND DAVIDSON COUNTY:

Section 1. The Metro Council hereby requests that the Department of Water and Sewerage Services, Waste Services Division, engage industry experts to conduct a comprehensive study assessing the costs and benefits of creating a department, authority, or other entity dedicated to solid waste disposal and associated responsibilities, as well as an associated plan for execution.

Section 2. The Metro Council further requests the Department of Water and Sewerage Services, Waste Services Division, or any entity assuming its responsibilities, study and report opportunities to manage waste services efficiently and effectively for the city. This study should include practices implemented by peer cities, current and future costs and revenue streams, and specific methods for executing strategies required for the

fulfillment of the Zero Waste Master Plan.

Section 3. This Resolution shall take effect from and after its passage, the welfare of the Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County requiring it.