



TACIR

The Tennessee Advisory Commission
on Intergovernmental Relations



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MEMORANDUM

TO: Commission Members

FROM: Cliff Lippard
Executive Director

DATE: 26 January 2023

SUBJECT: Comprehensive Litter Review—Final Report for Approval

The attached Commission report is submitted for your approval. It was prepared in response to direction from the Commission at its June 2021 meeting to conduct a comprehensive study of litter and illegal dumping in Tennessee to include research on the effects of littering and illegal waste dumping on the environment, economy, and overall quality of life in the state. The Commission clarified that the study would not focus on a bottle deposit or plastic bags because the General Assembly has already considered those issues.

Staff added information to the report that was requested by members at the last meeting. In response to a request from Senator Lundberg, staff added language that TDOT Highway Beautification Office staff said they will review the special litter grant application to find ways to simplify it and help municipalities apply for the grant. TACIR staff also clarified in the report that Senate Bill 2344 by Senator Yager was assigned to the General Subcommittee of the Senate Energy, Agriculture, and Natural Resources Committee, and House Bill 2381 by Representative Parkinson failed in the House Agriculture and Natural Resources Subcommittee. These bills would have implemented the recommendations in TACIR's 2020 waste tire report, but the bills didn't pass.

The report's recommendations remain unchanged from the draft report:

- **Therefore, the Commission recommends cities that need additional funding to deal with litter apply for special litter grants. Further, a permanent statewide litter task force, as recommended by this report, should gather data and assess**

the needs of cities across the state and help them connect with funding opportunities, such as the special litter grants.

- To help communities find resources and solutions, the Commission recommends the Beautification Office and Keep Tennessee Beautiful collaborate to create an online toolkit with resources for local governments based on best practices.
- To improve enforcement of litter laws, the Commission recommends the state support and facilitate more litter law enforcement training for law enforcement officers, prosecutors, and judges. And it recommends state and local governments consider focused enforcement of tarping laws in problem areas, such as roads that lead to landfills and convenience centers.
- To provide coordinated support on an ongoing basis, the Commission recommends the state create a permanent litter task force that includes diverse stakeholders to help implement strategies in communities across the state. And it recommends this group consider developing and implementing a statewide action plan, like Pennsylvania's.
- The Commission continues to recommend the state implement the other recommendations made in TACIR's 2020 waste tire report.