



**Thursday, December 3, 2020**

## **DC Council Votes on Employee Retention Bill**

On Tuesday, December 1st, the DC Council held its first vote on Bill 23-965, the "Displaced Workers Right to Reinstatement and Retention Amendment Act of 2020." As we previously informed you the Bill would require hotel employers that had more than 35 workers, as of December 1, 2019, to re-hire any hotel worker that worked for that covered employer but was laid-off on or after December 1, 2019. As hotels ramp up operations and positions become available, a covered hotel employer would be required to offer the position to a previously laid-off employee, in writing, and allow at least 10-days for the employee to accept or decline the position. If there is more than one employee that is eligible for the position, employees must be hired back based on seniority.

HAWDC is currently in discussions with the DC Council and offering amendments to the Bill that would lessen the impact to our members. HAWDC will continue to update members as the Bill works its way through the legislative process.

## **DC Council Passes Zero Waste Bill**

On Tuesday, December 1st, the DC Council passed the "Zero Waste Omnibus Amendment Act of 2020." This Bill mandates that large commercial food waste generators source separate and recycle their food waste. Large commercial food waste generators will be required to source separate back-of-house commercial food waste and provide for on-site organic waste processing or have it transported to an organic waste processing facility.

The introduced version of the Bill would have applied to hotels and large restaurants. HAWDC worked closely with Councilmember Cheh's office to lessen the impact to our members. **We are pleased to announce that hotels are currently exempt from this composting requirement.** The Department of Public Works has been authorized to add additional entities to the mandate beginning January 1, 2024; however, they must evaluate the District's capacity to accommodate the additional waste. HAWDC will update members if hotels are added to the mandates in 2024.

The Bill also creates grant and rebate opportunities to support the adoption of more sustainable practices. Additionally, it requires that food-service entities shall

only provide disposable accessory foodservice ware upon request of the customer or at self-service stations. When orders are placed through third-party apps, the customer must opt in to receive disposable accessory food-ware.

Regards,  
Lisa