

A high-angle photograph of the Philadelphia skyline, featuring several prominent skyscrapers. A semi-transparent teal rectangular box is overlaid across the middle of the image, containing white and green text. The sky is blue with some light clouds.

# Bill # 260380: Targeting Illegal Dumping in Philadelphia

## A Simple Change, A Cleaner City



## The Problem:

Illegal Dumping is hurting our neighborhoods. Dumping piles attract pests, block sidewalks, and drag down property values. Everyone deserves clean, safe streets.



Right now, the law says the City must prove someone **“knowingly”** dumped illegally.



## Tacony Creek Park's big cleanup



Tyger Williams / Staff Photographer

Tacony Creek Park in Crescentville last March faced one of the most severe dumping cases Philadelphia had seen: 4,000 tires stretching more than 100 feet, left to rot in a ravine.

# How “Knowingly” Affects Enforcement:

Dumpers can claim things like:

- “My boss said it was allowed...”
- “Someone told me to put it there...”
- “I didn’t know it was illegal...”






When someone dumps trash, placing the blame on someone else and claiming they had no intention to break the law...

...this makes it harder for city officials to issue **violations and prosecute** against illegal dumpers who are caught.





# REMOVING ONE WORD **KNOWINGLY**

In order to target and strengthen enforcement efforts, PennFuture's recommendation to City Leaders is to **remove** the word "knowingly" from the law with **Bill # 260380.**

**WHY?**

Because this amendment will **hold people accountable** based on what they did, not what they claim they were told.

The City of Philadelphia's efforts to stop illegal dumping costs taxpayers **approximately \$2 million every year.**

In 2021, a single department spent \$8.3 million to remove:

- **more than 7,000 tons of trash** and
- **83,600 tires** from **1,309 locations.**

**Amend the law, strengthen enforcement.**



# A Stronger Law = A Cleaner Philly

## Let's Protect our Neighborhoods.



PennFuture

With **Bill # 260380**, City government can help to remove trash from our streets by removing the word “knowingly” from the law.

# REFERENCES:

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