

HOUSE BILL 640

M3
HB 509/08 – ENV

11r1563

By: **Delegates Olszewski, Arora, Frick, Hammen, Kaiser, Luedtke, and Reznik**
Introduced and read first time: February 9, 2011
Assigned to: Environmental Matters

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Task Force to Study Required Deposits on Returnable Beverage Containers**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing the Task Force to Study Required Deposits on
4 Returnable Beverage Containers in the State; providing for the membership of
5 the Task Force; requiring the Governor to designate the chair of the Task Force;
6 requiring the Task Force to study certain issues relevant to requiring deposits
7 on returnable beverage containers in the State; requiring the Task Force to
8 report its findings and recommendations to the Governor and the General
9 Assembly on or before a certain date; providing for reimbursement for expenses
10 for a member of the Task Force; providing for the staff of the Task Force;
11 providing for the termination of this Act; and generally relating to the
12 establishment of the Task Force to Study Required Deposits on Returnable
13 Beverage Containers in the State.

14 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
15 MARYLAND, That:

16 (a) There is a Task Force to Study Required Deposits on Returnable
17 Beverage Containers in the State.

18 (b) The Task Force consists of the following members:

19 (1) three members of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the
20 President of the Senate;

21 (2) three members of the House of Delegates, appointed by the
22 Speaker of the House; and

23 (3) three county or municipal officials who have experience handling
24 recyclable materials, appointed by the Governor.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (c) The Governor shall designate the chair of the Task Force.

2 (d) The Department of the Environment and the Department of Legislative
3 Services jointly shall provide staff for the Task Force.

4 (e) A member of the Task Force:

5 (1) may not receive compensation as a member of the Task Force; but

6 (2) is entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the Standard
7 State Travel Regulations, as provided in the State budget.

8 (f) The Task Force shall study:

9 (1) the costs, benefits, and feasibility of requiring deposits on
10 returnable beverage containers in the State, including the effect this requirement
11 would have on litter control and recycling activities;

12 (2) how other states have implemented similar legislation, familiarly
13 known as bottle bills, and how effective this legislation has been in reducing litter and
14 increasing rates of recycling;

15 (3) how to most effectively integrate a bottle bill into the current
16 statewide recycling program;

17 (4) issues related to the establishment and operation of recyclable
18 container redemption centers, including the optimum number and locations for these
19 centers;

20 (5) mechanisms to defray the operating and capital costs to local
21 governments of implementing a bottle bill;

22 (6) the types of containers that should be subject to a bottle bill;

23 (7) the financial and operational effects of a bottle bill on State
24 retailers, especially in light of the experiences of other states; and

25 (8) any other issue that the Task Force considers relevant to the policy
26 of requiring deposits on returnable beverage containers in the State.

27 (g) On or before December 31, 2011, the Task Force shall report its findings
28 and recommendations to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State
29 Government Article, the General Assembly.

30 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
31 June 1, 2011. It shall remain effective for a period of 7 months and, at the end of
32 December 31, 2011, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act
33 shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.

