



# Montgomery County

## Office of Intergovernmental Relations

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HB 354

DATE: February 19, 2020

SPONSOR: Delegate Love, *et al.*

ASSIGNED TO: Economic Matters and Environment and Transportation

CONTACT PERSON: Amy Samman (amy.samman@montgomerycountymd.gov)

POSITION: SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENT (Montgomery Department of Environmental Protection)

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### **Solid Waste Management – Personal Cleansing Products Provided at Lodging Establishments – Prohibition**

House Bill 354 prohibits an owner, an operator, or a manager of a lodging establishment from providing a personal cleansing product in a small plastic bottle, except under specified circumstances. The prohibition may be enforced by the Maryland Department of the Environment, a unit of local government that has the authority to inspect lodging establishments, or the Attorney General.

The Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protection (MCDEP) supports the intent of House Bill 354 because it prohibits hotels, motels, bed and breakfasts, vacation rental units, and resorts from providing small plastic bottles of shampoo, conditioner, and body wash which has the potential to dramatically reduce the amount of plastic waste across the State. Marriott International has already begun replacing the single use plastic bottles with large pump top bottles in its hotel rooms and estimates that this program will save an average of 250 pounds of plastic per year for a 140-room hotel.

While MCDEP supports the intent of House Bill 354, it wants to preserve the authority of local governments to enact more stringent standards than are required under the bill. To accomplish this, MCDEP supports House Bill 354 with an amendment to add the following language: **"PART II OF THIS SUBTITLE DOES NOT AFFECT THE AUTHORITY OF A COUNTY, MUNICIPALITY, OR OTHER LOCAL GOVERNMENT TO ENACT STANDARDS THAT ARE AT LEAST AS STRINGENT AS THE STANDARDS ESTABLISHED IN THIS SUBTITLE."**