



# Maryland

## Department of the Environment

Larry Hogan  
Governor

Boyd Rutherford  
Lieutenant Governor

Ben Crumbles  
Secretary

February 19, 2020

The Honorable Dereck E. Davis, Chair  
House Economic Matters Committee  
House Office Building, Room 231  
Annapolis, MD 21401

### **Re: House Bill 987 – Environment - Recycling - Hotels**

Dear Chair Davis and Members of the Committee:

The Maryland Department of the Environment (“the Department”) has reviewed House Bill 987 entitled *Environment - Recycling – Hotels* and we would like to provide information regarding this bill.

On or before October 1, 2021, an owner, operator, or manager of a hotel would be required to provide recycling for hotel guests including: the collection of recyclable materials from guest and common areas of the hotel; the removal of recyclable materials collected for further recycling; and the recycling of all glass, plastic, aluminum, and paper products that are used by hotel staff and guests, and disposed of at the hotel. The recycling provided by a hotel must be carried out in accordance with the recycling plan required under § 9-1703 of the Environment Article for the county in which the hotel is located. The bill also requires an owner, operator, or manager of a hotel to report recycling activities to a county; and authorizes, but does not require, a county to manage or enforce the recycling activities of a hotel. A person that violates the bill requirements is subject to a civil penalty not to exceed \$150 for each day a violation exists; and any penalties collected must be paid to the county, municipality, or other local government that brought the enforcement action. The bill would not affect the authority of a county, municipality, or other local government to enact and enforce recycling requirements, including the establishment of civil penalties for a hotel that are more stringent than those established in House Bill 987.

The feasibility of a hotel to recycle all materials such as glass, plastic, aluminum and paper products may be dependent upon available markets for these materials, therefore recycling for certain types of these materials may be in more demand than others.

Achieving more recycling and waste avoidance requires the participation of State and local government, businesses, and individuals. To this end, Governor Hogan signed Executive Order 01.01.2017.13, Resource Recovery Plan for Maryland, reaffirming Maryland's commitment to waste reduction and recycling by emphasizing collaboration across State and local agencies, the private recycling sector, and citizens to establish and make meaningful progress towards waste diversion goals. The executive order also focuses on sustainable materials management. Sustainable materials

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management calls for reducing the environmental impact of the materials we manufacture, purchase, use, and manage throughout their entire lifecycle.

Under the Maryland Recycling Act, each county must plan for and achieve a minimum recycling rate of either 20 or 35 percent, depending on population. In most counties, businesses are not required to recycle or report recycling activities to the county, but many do so voluntarily. The Department has established an "Annual Business Recycling Reporting Survey" form that allows businesses to voluntarily report their recycling activities to their resident counties so that these efforts can be captured in the counties' recycling rates. If House Bill 987 passes, the increase in commercial property recycling would assist counties in meeting their mandatory recycling rates under the Maryland Recycling Act.

Thank you for your consideration. We will continue to monitor House Bill 987 during the Committee's deliberations, and I am available to answer any questions you may have. Please feel free to contact me at 410-260-6301 or by e-mail at [tyler.abbott@maryland.gov](mailto:tyler.abbott@maryland.gov).

Sincerely,

Tyler Abbott

cc: The Honorable Stephanie Smith  
Ms. Kaley Laleker, Director, Land and Materials Administration