



House Bill 988 – Environment – Business Recycling Reporting Requirements

Position: Oppose

The Maryland REALTORS® opposes HB 988 which requires businesses, apartment buildings and condominiums to weigh and identify the type of waste they produce.

Under HB 988, businesses would have to file an annual recycling report detailing the weight of solid waste generated by the business and the amount and types of materials recycled. It is unclear how a business would collect the information. Would the private trash hauler be responsible for weighing the materials or would the business need to do that because the trash hauler is likely picking up materials from different businesses before disposing of it?

The REALTORS® are concerned about the cost of documenting this trash which will be borne by either the trash hauler or from the dedication of their employee's time to track this. Some counties permit businesses to estimate the weight materials rather than weighing it. HB 988 does not make clear that estimating trash weight is permitted.

Finally, although the law requires similar reporting for counties, the counties have the benefit of being able to weigh material and separate it at their transfer and disposal sites. Private businesses do not have such resources and it is not clear how a private trash hauler would be able to do this for multiple businesses without weighing materials at each site. For these reasons, the REALTORS® recommend an unfavorable report.

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