



Testimony in Opposition to HB 988 Environment-Business Recycling Requirements

While we appreciate the intent of HB 988, we are opposed to the bill due to concerns related to the ability of our industry to comply with its requirements.

Most hotels and motels use contract trash haulers to remove trash and recyclables; but in the case of some smaller properties, their trash and recyclables may be removed by city or county trash collectors. In either case, neither the lodging property nor the trash hauler has the capability of weighing the trash being hauled. Some haulers are weighed at the drop off facility—but only in the larger counties where there are scales. In those counties, the haulers are charged by weight for the trash they are dumping. However, most of the rural counties do not have such scales, and haulers pay a flat fee.

Additionally, if at all possible, haulers will pick up trash from more than one site before going to the dump. Therefore, determining what the weight for the trash picked up from any one site becomes even more difficult—if not impossible.

We know that Prince Georges County passed similar legislation a few years ago, but there the County Landfills have scales. Since the legislators, who have introduced this legislation, are from Baltimore, where the landfills have scales, perhaps the legislation should only apply to Baltimore. But, that still does not help the small lodging facilities—or small businesses for that matter—when their trash is co-mingled with that of other small businesses.

We hope it is not the intent of the sponsors that every business—small or large—install scales just for the purpose of weighing trash.

For the most part, hotels encourage recycling by both employees and guests in accordance with local recycling programs. Major brands have instituted green initiatives for their properties in an effort to improve the environment and enhance the guest experience. It makes good business sense—and our guests expect it. But mandating reporting and the installation of scales does not make good business sense. Therefore, we ask that the Committees give this bill an unfavorable report.

Thank you for your consideration.

For further information, contact:
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