

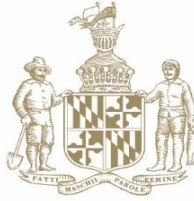
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Committee

Subcommittees

Housing and Real Property

Local Government and
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HB1103, Task Force to Study Recycling & the Processing of Solid Waste.

I am pleased to present HB1103 for your consideration.

HB1103 is a result of the Environment & Transportation Committee Workgroup on Waste Reduction and Recycling. The workgroup spent many hours this summer studying the issue and received many valuable comments from stakeholders regarding the topic.

Many of the other bills introduced this session have taken the suggestions from stakeholders into account and have incorporated them into legislation – 3 jurisdictions suggested single-use plastic restrictions; six jurisdictions suggested adoption of the Extended Producer Responsibility approach, and many others have suggested expanding composting as a means to reduce landfill waste.

Additionally, six jurisdictions suggested enticing manufacturers and processors to locate in their jurisdictions and provide incentives for emerging technologies (anaerobic digestion). Also, six jurisdictions suggested regional efforts for technology, recycling and waste diversion.

The latter is the approach taken by this bill. Although the Workgroup spent countless hours on the subject, this legislation seeks to extend that work even further by creating a 9-member task force comprised of government and elected officials, and members of private industry in recycling, waste diversion, or related technology.

The hope is that this task force will study in more detail the latest technologies in the processing of solid waste, including, but not limited to sorting, baling, anaerobic digestion, digesters, pelletizing or other refuse-derived fuel, gasification, and/or waste-to-energy with the ultimate goal of reducing the amount of material that is buried in landfills.

In completing their work, it is hoped that the task force will consider regional approaches, incentives for private industry to manufacture recyclable products from waste, as well as identify potential funding sources or tax credit programs to make Maryland the leader in the Nation when it comes to the elimination of landfill waste.

I thank you for your attentiveness and ask for a favorable report. Thank you.