



## Maryland Municipal League

*The Association of Maryland's Cities and Towns*

# TESTIMONY

February 9, 2023

**Committee:** Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment

**Bill:** \_\_\_\_\_ SB 222 – Environment – Reducing Packaging Materials – Producer Responsibility

**Position:** Support with amendment

**Reason for Position:**

The goal of this bill is to modernize and improve waste and recycling in Maryland. It shifts the responsibility for packaging materials to the producer, increasing the likelihood that environmentally damaging materials are responsibly disposed of. This bill also includes a fee structure to help local governments with the collection and disposal of these products, and ensures that a Producer's Responsibility Plan describes the process by which municipalities can request reimbursement for costs associated with collecting, transporting, and processing packaging materials. These are valuable and necessary measures to further our collective response to climate change.

However, how the reimbursement *amounts* are decided and disbursed is unclear. It is also unclear whether municipalities that collect packaging materials but do not process and dispose of it themselves would still qualify for reimbursement. The logistical relationship between state, county, and municipal waste collection is detailed and complicated. Several municipalities own and operate their own waste processing plants, while others rely on county or even out-of-state processing centers.

We recognize the changes made to this year's version, and we are confident that further discussion and collaboration can resolve these outstanding questions. We believe this will be a net-positive for the State and our cities and towns, and MML looks forward to working with the Sponsor and this Committee. With adoption of clarifying amendments, MML would respectfully request a favorable report.

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