



Maryland Municipal League

The Association of Maryland's Cities and Towns

TESTIMONY

March 29, 2023

Committee: House Environment & Transportation

Bill: SB 222 – Environment – Reducing Packaging Materials – Producer Responsibility

Position: Support with amendments

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, the uncodified language in Section 2 creates a problem. Requiring local governments to file a feasibility plan with MDE that would sell recycling material back to the producer is unduly burdensome without sufficient rationale.

We recognize the changes made to this year's version and believe this will be a net-positive for the State and our cities and towns. With removal of Section 2, MML would respectfully request a favorable report.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Theresa Kuhns
Angelica Bailey Thupari, Esq.
Bill Jorch
Justin Fiore

Chief Executive Officer
Director, Advocacy & Public Affairs
Director, Public Policy
Deputy Director, Advocacy & Public Affairs

1212 West Street, Annapolis, Maryland 21401

410-268-5514 | 800-492-7121 | FAX: 410-268-7004 | www.md-municipal.org