



# Montgomery County

## Office of Intergovernmental Relations

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**SB 222**

**DATE: March 29, 2023**

**SPONSOR: Senator Augustine, et al.**

**ASSIGNED TO: Environment and Transportation**

**CONTACT PERSON: Steven Shofar** (steven.shofar@montgomerycountymd.gov)

**POSITION: Support** (Department of Environmental Protection)

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### **Environment – Reducing Packaging Materials – Producer Responsibility**

The Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protection strongly supports this bill. The bill would enhance recycling and diversion, improve recycling markets, and reduce waste in the State through: (1) conducting a statewide recycling needs assessment every 10 years; (2) requiring producers to develop producer responsibility plans related to increasing postconsumer recycled content in packaging; (3) reducing packaging waste overall; and (4) creating a process through which local governments may request reimbursement for portions of the cost of collecting, transporting, and processing (including removing contamination) recyclable and compostable materials. These are crucial steps in reducing the wasted resources and excess greenhouse gases associated with single use behaviors, as we hope to move towards a more sustainable economy.

The Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protection respectfully requests that the Environment and Transportation Committee give Senate Bill 222 a favorable report.