



**The Maryland Department of the Environment
Secretary Serena McIlwain**

SB 346

Maryland Beverage Container Recycling Refund and Litter Reduction Program

Position: Informational

Committee: Education, Energy, and the Environment

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From: Leslie Gray, Government Relations Officer

The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) offers the following **INFORMATIONAL** testimony on Senate Bill 346.

SB 346 would establish a Maryland Beverage Container Recycling Refund and Litter Reduction Program to address the collection and redemption of beverage containers sold in the state. MDE would be required to oversee the program and enforce seller and distributor registration requirements and container disposal prohibitions.

MDE appreciates the intent of the bill to divert beverage containers from the waste stream but believes in a comprehensive solution through the Packaging Extended Producer Responsibility Program (EPR). The majority of states with successful bottle deposit programs have had them in place for decades, before using Producer Responsibility Organizations (PRO) became the preferred method for EPR. Maryland is currently pursuing an EPR framework based on the work of the Producer Responsibility Advisory Council, which would align with national best practices and allow MDE to focus its efforts on program oversight.

MDE hopes that the information regarding SB 346 is helpful, and is available for questions.

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