



FREDERICK COUNTY GOVERNMENT
OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Jessica Fitzwater
County Executive

SB 346 – Maryland Beverage Container Recycling Refund and Litter Reduction Program

DATE: February 18, 2025
COMMITTEE: Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
POSITION: Favorable
FROM: Frederick County Executive Jessica Fitzwater

As the Frederick County Executive, I urge the committee to give SB 346 - Maryland Beverage Container Recycling Refund and Litter Reduction Program a favorable report.

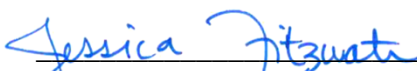
Each year across Maryland, 5.2 billion beverage containers are sold but only 23% of those plastic bottles are recycled while the remaining 4 billion containers are left in landfills, as litter, or are incinerated.

This bill will establish a deposit-refund system for metal, glass, and plastic beverage containers to reduce the burden of litter and trash on the environment and local governments. The deposit is refunded to the customer when the beverage container is returned for recycling. The program would rely on reverse vending machines and other technologies for convenient redemption to ensure as many bottles are recycled as possible, putting money back in the consumer's hands and increasing our recycling rates.

SB 346 is important to Frederick County as we strive to reduce litter and pollution especially in our waterways. As we invest in our future, this bill would encourage the investment in the development of refillable and reusable containers, while incentivizing consumers to recycle single use bottles. Our recycling rate would increase as more material enters the recycling process. This would also lead to reduced greenhouse gas emissions due to less virgin material needed to create new containers.

Frederick County's Division of Solid Waste and Recycling has looked closely at this legislation and determined that our facility, which is an enterprise fund, would not be negatively impacted by this policy. While the program could affect commodity pricing for bottle materials, we anticipate savings in the transportation and processing of Frederick County's materials obtained from curbside collection. Ultimately, this program could improve the rates of recycling and provide a net benefit to our Division of Solid Waste and Recycling and the community at large.

Thank you for your consideration of SB 346. I urge you to advance this bill with a favorable report.



Jessica Fitzwater, County Executive
Frederick County, MD