



**The Maryland Department of the Environment**

**Secretary Serena McIlwain**

***SB 901***

***Packaging Materials - Producer Responsibility Plans***

**Position:** Support with Amendments  
**Committee:** Environment and Transportation  
**Date:** March 27, 2025  
**From:** Leslie Gray, Government Relations Officer

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The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) **SUPPORTS SB 901 WITH AMENDMENTS.**

**Bill Summary**

Senate Bill 901 would establish a Packaging Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) Program in Maryland. The program would require certain producers of packaging materials, individually or as part of a producer responsibility organization (PRO), to submit a certain packaging materials producer responsibility plan to MDE for review and approval. The PRO would also collect fees from producers, which would be used to cover their administrative costs, certain recycling activity costs, MDE's cost to administer the program, and the costs to prepare a needs assessment.

**Position Rationale**

EPR programs are essential in strengthening public-private partnerships and involving producers in waste management solutions. MDE and the Moore-Miller Administration support policies that reduce waste and provide significant health and environmental benefits. The Department appreciates the opportunity to work with the sponsor and General Assembly leadership on a comprehensive solution based on findings from the EPR study that was authorized in 2023. SB 901 represents a significant investment in Maryland's recycling infrastructure that is projected to increase the packaging recycling rate from 35% to 50%, capture \$202 million in material value (a \$53 million increase), reduce over 1 million metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, and create 2,075 new jobs—all without impacting state capital or operational budgets.

Maryland faces a landfill crisis, with only 22 years of existing capacity. SB 901 will ease landfill pressure by diverting recyclables, extending landfill lifespan, and reducing environmental impacts while improving packaging recycling to support sustainable waste management and reduce reliance on disposal sites. To ensure the Department has the necessary resources to implement the bill, MDE recommends an amendment allowing reimbursement for the cost of developing and implementing regulations as necessary.

For the reasons detailed above MDE asks for a **FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENTS** report for SB 901.

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**Amendment to SB 901:**

**Reimbursement for costs of developing and implementing regulations:**

On page 25, in line 13, strike "IN 2026 ONLY" and substitute "AS NECESSARY".