



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

***House Bill 164***

***State Buildings and State Highways - Collection and Disposal of Yard Waste***

**Position:** Support  
**Committee:** Environment and Transportation  
**Date:** February 4, 2026  
**From:** Jeremy D. Baker, Director of Government Relations

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The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) **SUPPORTS** HB 164.

**Bill Summary**

House Bill 164 would prohibit a person from disposing of yard waste collected on the grounds of a State building or State highway in a single-use plastic container. It would also require a person to collect yard waste on the grounds of a State building or State highway in a container that will not be discarded with the yard waste, or is a compostable paper bag. Finally the bill would require all yard waste collected on the grounds of a State building or State highway be disposed of using additional environmental best practices.

**Position Rationale**

Requiring that yard waste be collected in a container that will not be discarded with the yard waste or is compostable can save organic recyclers time and money because they will not have to unbag the waste during processing. MDE anticipates that this will help promote the additional diversion of yard waste from landfills and encourage local governments to adopt similar policies.

Accordingly, MDE asks for a **FAVORABLE** report for HB 164.

**Contact:** Jeremy D. Baker, Director of Government Relations  
Cell: 443-931-0937, Email: [jeremy.baker@maryland.gov](mailto:jeremy.baker@maryland.gov)