

# HOUSE BILL 509

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By: **Delegates Hammen, Ali, Bobo, Cardin, Frush, Glenn, Guzzone, Hucker, Krysiak, Lafferty, McIntosh, Morhaim, Olszewski, Pendergrass, Reznik, Rosenberg, Schuler, and Stein**

Introduced and read first time: January 30, 2008

Assigned to: Environmental Matters

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Task Force to Study Required Deposits on Returnable Beverage Containers**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing the Task Force to Study Required Deposits on  
4 Returnable Beverage Containers in the State; providing for the membership of  
5 the Task Force; requiring the Governor to designate the chair of the Task Force;  
6 requiring the Task Force to study certain issues relevant to requiring deposits  
7 on returnable beverage containers in the State; requiring the Task Force to  
8 report its findings and recommendations to the Governor and the General  
9 Assembly on or before a certain date; providing for reimbursement for expenses  
10 for a member of the Task Force; providing for the staff of the Task Force;  
11 providing for the termination of this Act; and generally relating to the  
12 establishment of the Task Force to Study Required Deposits on Returnable  
13 Beverage Containers in the State.

14 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF  
15 MARYLAND, That:

16 (a) There is a Task Force to Study Required Deposits on Returnable  
17 Beverage Containers in the State.

18 (b) The Task Force consists of the following members:

19 (1) three members of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the  
20 President of the Senate;

21 (2) three members of the House of Delegates, appointed by the  
22 Speaker of the House; and

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1           (3) three county or municipal officials who have experience handling  
2 recyclable materials, appointed by the Governor.

3           (c) The Governor shall designate the chair of the Task Force.

4           (d) The Department of the Environment and the Department of Legislative  
5 Services jointly shall provide staff for the Task Force.

6           (e) A member of the Task Force:

7               (1) may not receive compensation as a member of the Task Force; but

8               (2) is entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the Standard  
9 State Travel Regulations, as provided in the State budget.

10          (f) The Task Force shall study:

11               (1) the costs, benefits, and feasibility of requiring deposits on  
12 returnable beverage containers in the State, including the effect this requirement  
13 would have on litter control and recycling activities;

14               (2) how other states have implemented similar legislation, familiarly  
15 known as bottle bills, and how effective this legislation has been in reducing litter and  
16 increasing rates of recycling;

17               (3) how to most effectively integrate a bottle bill into the current  
18 statewide recycling program;

19               (4) issues related to the establishment and operation of recyclable  
20 container redemption centers, including the optimum number and locations for these  
21 centers;

22               (5) mechanisms to defray the operating and capital costs to local  
23 governments of implementing a bottle bill;

24               (6) the types of containers that should be subject to a bottle bill;

25               (7) the financial and operational effect of a bottle bill on State  
26 retailers, especially in light of the experiences of other states; and

27               (8) any other issue that the Task Force considers relevant to the policy  
28 of requiring deposits on returnable beverage containers in the State.

29          (g) On or before December 31, 2008, the Task Force shall report its findings  
30 and recommendations to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State  
31 Government Article, the General Assembly.

1           SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
2 June 1, 2008. It shall remain effective for a period of 7 months and, at the end of  
3 December 31, 2008, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act  
4 shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.